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CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Ex-IGP Mamun offers to be a state witness

ICT frames charges against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed charges against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two of her former top aides in a case related to the crimes against humanity during the July uprising.

One of her co-accused, former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, pleaded guilty and appealed to become a state witness (a witness for the prosecution).

This is the first time an accused has made such a plea at the ICT since its formation in 2010. This is also the first time accused have been charged at the ICT in a case over atrocities during the uprising.

The charges against the trio include murder, attempted murder, torture, and the use of lethal weapons and other crimes against humanity.

The ICT-1 set August 3 and August 4 for the opening statements of the prosecution and the defence and the recording of witness depositions.

The other person accused in the case, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, remains absconding. Hasina has been in India since she fled to the neighbouring country on August 5 last year.

The trio is also charged with crimes against humanity for their "superior command responsibility, conspiracy, incitement, instigation, facilitation, abetment, complicity, failure to punish, failure to prevent crimes".

Having read out the charges, Judge Md Mohitul Hoque Anam Chowdhury asked ex-IGP Mamun, "Do you plead guilty?"

In a surprise move, with all eyes in the packed courtroom on Mamun, he pleaded guilty.

"I will voluntarily disclose the truth and make full disclosure of the whole of the circumstances within my knowledge relating to the case," the former police chief said.

Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of the ICT, later at a briefing said Mamun had applied to become an approver, and the court has granted the request.

In legal contexts, an approver is a person who, having been involved in a crime, confesses their guilt and agrees to testify against their accomplices in exchange for leniency or immunity.

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PHOTO: TITU DAS

Relatives take a patient on a stretcher from Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital to a diagnostic centre on Band Road amid pouring rain in Barishal yesterday. With essential tests either unavailable or delayed for days due to capacity constraints, even critically ill patients are forced to seek diagnostics outside.

Draft MoU for hosting UN rights office gets final nod

UNB, Dhaka

The council of advisers yesterday gave its final approval to the draft memorandum of understanding allowing the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a mission in Bangladesh.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or the UN Human Rights is the leading UN entity on human rights.

The 33rd meeting of the advisory council, chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, was held at his office.

The council also approved a proposal for Bangladesh's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT).

Bangladesh became a State Party to the original Convention in 1998, said the Cabinet Division after the meeting.

The protocol, aimed at strengthening protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, was adopted in 2002.

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TRUMP TARIFFS Businesses demand lobbyist for negotiations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of major business chambers and trade bodies yesterday expressed concern to the government about the 35 percent tariff levied on Bangladesh by the Trump administration.

They said Bangladesh's exports to the US, which was around \$8 billion last year, will be badly impacted by the new rate.

Nearly 200 small and medium enterprises may be closed down and more than one lakh workers may lose their jobs due to the new tariff, industry insiders said.

The new rate for export shipments to the US, Bangladesh's single largest export destination, will be effective from August 1.

The American clothing retailers and brands are already delaying work orders for the next season because of the uncertainty surrounding the tariff, since negotiations with the US are still ongoing.

After a meeting with four advisers at the Rail Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday, the business leaders claimed they requested the government to appoint lobbyist firms in the US for negotiating the tariff issue with the Trump administration at least two months ago.

"But the government did not pay heed to the suggestion," said Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

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Students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College sharing hugs and smiles after the SSC results were published yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SSC pass rate plunges to a 16-year low

Girls again outshine boys; poor performance in math, English blamed for 68.04% pass rate

ARAFAT RAHMAN

The pass rate in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations across all nine general education boards has dropped to 68.04 percent, the lowest in 16 years.

The number of GPA-5 achievers also fell sharply from 1,63,845 last year to 1,25,018.

Female students continued to

outperform their male counterparts in both pass rates and GPA scores. Girls have now led in pass rates for nine consecutive years and GPA-5s for eight.

Education officials attributed the 15.73 percentage point decline from last year to poor performance in mathematics, particularly among humanities students, and stricter evaluation.

At a press conference at the Dhaka Education Board, Prof Khondokar Ehsanul Kabir, president of the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, said this year's results reflect the actual performance of students.

"Examiners were instructed to evaluate papers on merit. No extra or grace marks were awarded this

SEE PAGE 2 COL. 1

KSRM

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JULY 11, 2024

Blockade turns confrontational

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

On July 11, 2024, the anti-quota movement entered a new phase of confrontation. Ignoring police warnings and ministers' calls to step back, thousands of protesters defied barricades and took to the streets as part of their "Bangla Blockade." For the first time since the movement began, law enforcement intervened, triggering clashes that left at least 20 students injured in Cumilla and Chattogram.

For 11 consecutive days, students from public universities and colleges, along with job seekers, had been demonstrating peacefully, occupying key intersections, highways, and rail lines across the country. Until this day, police had refrained from disrupting their gatherings. But as the blockade widened, the authorities signalled a tougher stance. The police announced they would take legal action if

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Four die after inhaling septic tank gas

All died trying to save each other after phone fell into a toilet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Four people lost their lives after inhaling toxic gas while attempting to retrieve a mobile phone from a septic tank in the remote Harinchhara tea garden of Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila early yesterday.

The victims are Rana Nayek, 17, Shraban Nayek, 19, Krishna Rabidas, 20, and Nipen Fulmali, 27. Their families work in different tea gardens.

Another injured, Rabi Banerjee, was undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

According to locals and relatives, the mobile phone accidentally fell into a makeshift toilet around 1:30am. In an attempt to recover it, one of the victims entered the tank and immediately lost consciousness, reportedly due to the presence of toxic gas.

"The victims went down one after another to rescue each other, but none of them made it out," said Dusal Fulmali, a relative of victim Nipen, who was the father of two young daughters and his family's sole breadwinner.

Sabyasachi Pal Tamal of Moulvibazar 250-bed General Hospital said the four were brought dead. Another youth was later admitted with serious injuries, and he was referred to Sylhet for better treatment.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sreemangal Police Station, told this correspondent, "An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the deaths."

Ex-IGP Mamun offers to be a state witness

FROM PAGE 1

Jaiad Bin Amjad, lawyer for Mamun, told The Daily Star that he had submitted an application for his client to become an approver. "The court has granted it. So, from now on, he is considered an approver, not an accused. However, if the tribunal is not convinced by his statement later, it can still treat him as an accused. This is part of the legal process."

Judge Mohitul read the charges as instructed by tribunal chair Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder.

Each charge against Hasina begins with a context from her press conference of July 14, 2024. The charges state that as prime minister and political head of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance, Hasina made inflammatory remarks likening protesters with "grandchildren of Razakars" or collaborators of the Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War.

These comments incited law enforcement officials and armed party cadres, according to the charges. Hasina then issued the

order to use lethal force, the prosecution alleged, adding that in turn, the former home minister and ex-IGP executed the orders through subordinate commanders.

The judge read on, "As a result, coordinated armed attacks were carried out nationwide on innocent protesters demanding quota reforms. Drones were used to locate protest sites, followed by attacks with firearms and helicopters. At least 1,500 people were killed and 25,000 injured – many suffering permanent blindness and disabilities."

He also said the victims were denied medical treatment, and no post-mortem examinations were carried out. In the case of Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur who was shot dead, the post-mortem report was changed four times.

The judge also said that six people were burned – five already dead and one still alive at the time – in an attempt to destroy evidence.

The ICT-1 member also said the tribunal believes there is enough evidence to presume the

accused knowingly and systematically committed offences under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.

"Thereby, Sheikh Hasina, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun are formally indicted," he announced.

Former police chief Mamun appeared sombre in the dock in a purple chequered half shirt and gray trousers. Security was tight, with extra police deployed around the tribunal premises.

THE CHARGES

Charge 1: This charge specifies that following Hasina's July 14 press briefing, former home minister Asaduzzaman, former IGP Mamun, and other high officials of the then government abetted, assisted, and were complicit in the severe and systematic attacks on innocent, unarmed students and masses.

Charge 2: This charge is related to Hasina ordering the use of drones and helicopters along with lethal weapons to subdue protesters. It mentions the

telephonic conversation between Hasina and former Dhaka South mayor Fazle Noor Taposh and former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof ASM Maksud Kamal where the former premier spoke about the order. The prosecution charged Asaduzzaman and Mamun with facilitating and executing this directive by issuing instructions to law enforcers.

The defendants have been charged with ordering, facilitating, being complicit in, and conspiring to commit these crimes against humanity, knowingly and systematically.

Charge 3: This charge is related to the killing of Rangpur student Abu Sayed.

As part of the widespread and systematic attacks on unarmed student protesters, on July 16, police shot Sayed several times without provocation. The doctor concerned was forced to alter his post-mortem report four times to conceal the actual cause of death. The defendants ordered, incited, abetted, facilitated, were complicit and conspired to commit these crimes against

Charge 4:

This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecutors said the atrocities in Chankharpul were carried out on the defendants' orders, and with incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity.

Charge 5: The defendants are charged with the shooting of six student protesters, five of whom were killed and burned, while the sixth was reportedly set on fire while still alive, in Ashulia on August 5 last year.

As the judge read the word "burned", he paused and muttered, "Nauzubillah!"

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 6: This count is related to the killing of Rangpur student Abu Sayed.

As the judge read the word "burned", he paused and muttered, "Nauzubillah!"

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 7: This count is related to the killing of Rangpur student Abu Sayed.

As the judge read the word "burned", he paused and muttered, "Nauzubillah!"

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 8: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 9: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 10: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 11: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 12: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 13: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 14: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 15: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 16: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 17: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 18: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 19: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 20: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 21: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 22: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 23: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 24: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 25: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 26: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 27: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 28: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 29: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 30: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 31: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 32: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 33: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 34: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 35: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 36: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 37: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

Charge 38: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.



Work together for a strong, healthy nation

Says Yunus on World Population Day

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus yesterday called upon development partners, non-governmental organisations, media, and civil society to come forward and cooperate with the government in building a healthy and strong nation.

"Let's all take Bangladesh forward," he said in a message marking World Population Day.

Yunus said this year's theme of the day

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Students and parents cross the street through a broken divider in the capital's Kakrail area. Recent rain has left puddles at the spot, making the risky shortcut even more dangerous. Despite a foot-over bridge nearby, many still choose this path for quicker access. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Starved and tortured for 42 days

2 Bangladeshis held hostage in Libya for ransom; PBI arrests 2 local collaborators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alamgir Hossain had nearly lost all hope. For 42 days, he and fellow Bangladeshi migrant Siraj Uddin were held hostage in a Libyan hideout -- shackled, beaten, and starved by human traffickers demanding ransom from their families in Bangladesh.

Each call home came with fresh torture, livestreamed over "imo," as the captors shouted -- "No money, no life."

The two men, hailing from Noakhali and working at a workshop in Tripoli's Jamazaiton area, were abducted on January 8 this year.

"The abductors later handed us over to another group, who accused us of running a manpower business and sending people to Italy," said Alamgir, who migrated to Libya as a welder in 2022.

"They demanded 4 lakh takas from each of us. When we said we couldn't pay, they tortured us and then handed us over to a Bangladeshi group."

Their families soon received ransom demands of Tk 22 lakh per person through video calls.

"There were nine Bangladeshis who tortured us," Alamgir said. "We were barely given food or water. They beat us every day for money."

During the calls, the captors whipped their feet with electric cables, smashed their knees so they couldn't stand, even stripped and assaulted them in the freezing Libyan winter, Alamgir added.

At one point, the abductors declared the victims dead and cut off communication, putting more pressure on the families. Siraj's sister-in-law, Parvin Akhter, managed to send Tk 1.5 lakh on January 13, but the torture continued.

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Govt takes steps for media reform, adopts 12 decisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has begun implementing several key recommendations made by the Media Reform Commission, with the information ministry initially adopting 12 major decisions.

The ministry disclosed the move yesterday in a press statement, noting that the 11-member Media Reform Commission, led by senior journalist Kamal Ahmed, submitted its report to the government on March 22 this year.

According to the statement, an ordinance ensuring the protection of journalists' rights will be enacted soon following consultations with stakeholders.

A task force will be formed to reform the newspaper circulation auditing system.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Freeze, confiscate S Alam's assets in Singapore Court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to take steps for freezing and confiscating foreign assets owned by S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam, his wife Farzana Parveen, their children, and one son-in-law in Singapore.

The couple's sons are Ashraful Alam, Asadul Alam Mahir, and Ahsanul Alam; their daughter is Maimuna Khanam, and her husband is Ahmed Belal.

The foreign assets include 43 bank accounts, shares of two hotels, eight hotels, development companies, and gold ornaments.

Of the assets, the couple owns shares of two hotels, whose market value stands at 68 million Singaporean dollars. Their sons, daughter, and son-in-law own development companies and other assets. Their daughter owns gold ornaments worth about 53,400 Singaporean dollars. However, the ACC did not mention how much had been invested or deposited in these accounts and companies.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Tahsin Monabil Haq, who leads the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

The judge also ordered the ACC to send a copy of the order to the concerned authorities in Singapore for the next course of action.

On Wednesday, the same court ordered the ACC to

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RMG workers being intercepted by police yesterday as they attempt to march to the state guest house Jamuna to press their demands. Earlier in the day, workers from eight factories of the TNZ Group in Gazipur held a sit-in in front of the Sramik Bhaban at Bijoynagar, demanding arrears and other benefits.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

July injured to get free flats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works has taken up a project to provide free flats in Dhaka to those who were seriously injured during the July uprising.

A total of 1,560 flats will be constructed at an estimated cost of around Tk 1,400 crore, funded by the government, said Syed Md Nurul Basir, chairman of the National Housing Authority (NHA).

"Many people became disabled or lost their ability to work during the July movement. The government will provide them with flats," he said.

The flats will be built on government land in Mirpur Section 9, and the project will be implemented by the NHA. The authority has already prepared the designs.

Each flat will be 1,270 square feet and include two bedrooms, a drawing room, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, and three toilets, the NHA chairman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier, the ministry had launched a separate project to provide free flats to the families of those martyred during the July uprising.

That project comprises 804 flats, with a total estimated cost of Tk 762 crore. Each flat will be 1,355 square feet and constructed on government land in Mirpur Section 14.

Chairman Basir said infrastructure development is currently the priority, and building construction is expected to take around four years.

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Every country faces risks from militant attacks
Says US Chargé d'Affaires

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many incidents of political persecution and repression during the previous Awami League government's tenure were labelled as "militant activities" to divert attention, said US Chargé d'Affaires Megan Bouldin yesterday.

She made the remarks during a courtesy call on Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury at his office in the Secretariat, according to a press release issued by the home ministry.

The two also discussed matters of mutual interest, such as the country's law and order situation, security cooperation, counterterrorism, prosecution of related cases, and the prevention of online sexual harassment of young women, among other issues.

The adviser said the US is a close ally of

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

China backs govt's reform initiatives
Its foreign minister pledges cooperation in meet with foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has expressed full support for Bangladesh's interim government's reform initiatives and pledged cooperation in key areas including trade, investment, medical tourism, and water management.

He made the commitments during a meeting with Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday on the sidelines of the 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur, according to a foreign ministry statement.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Padma erosion threatens ferry ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Padma river has taken a furious turn, devouring the riverbank at Najirganj in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna, putting the Najirganj ferry ghat under serious threat of erosion.

Officials of the Water Development Board (WDB), however, claimed there is sufficient protection work around the ferry ghat.

During a recent visit to the area, a vast portion of riverbank land around the pontoon of the Najirganj ferry ghat was found already devoured by the river.

With rising water pressure, the river has been eroding the northern part of the ferry ghat over the past few days.

"Riverbank erosion is happening rapidly and residents living nearby face an increasing threat. The river is coming closer to homesteads," said Md Moshiur Rahman, chairman of Najirganj Union Parishad.

If the erosion continues, dozens of homesteads and the ferry ghat itself may be swallowed by the Padma within days, he added.



Farmers plant Aman seedlings in a field in Narail yesterday. Taking advantage of the seasonal rains, they have started transplanting earlier than usual. According to the farmers, early planting increases the chances of a better yield. The photo was taken in the Tularampur area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



Md Alamgir Hossain, a BWTC official and employee of Najirganj ferry ghat, said, "A portion of the riverbank around the ferry ghat has already been devoured, so we are operating the ferries with caution."

Contacted, Sujanagar UNO Meer Rasheduzzaman Rashed said he visited Najirganj to observe the situation. "We have already informed the Water Development Board to take necessary action," he said.

Md Jahedul Islam, executive engineer of the Bera WDB office, said a 300-metre area around the ferry ghat had earlier been protected with CC blocks.

When asked about the sudden erosion, he said, "Due to water pressure, the topsoil has eroded, but there is nothing to worry about yet."

"We are monitoring the situation. The erosion is ongoing but no establishments have been damaged so far. If the situation worsens, we will initiate protection work."

Migrants trapped in medical

FROM PAGE 3
issuing fraudulent reports, the syndicate earns hundreds of crores annually.

Amid mounting allegations, members of the GCC-approved medical centres voiced their frustration during a programme in Dhaka on June 26.

They demanded the cancellation of licences of syndicate-linked centres and fair referral

distribution.

"About 95 percent of approved centres are getting no work. The syndicate is manipulating the system and earning crores," said one member.

"This is not just corruption -- it's endangering lives," added another. "Unfit workers with fake certificates are being deported, damaging Bangladesh's reputation as a labour-sending country."

AZM Nurul Haque, joint

secretary (monitoring and enforcement wing) of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said, "We've heard of irregularities, including extra charges for health certificates, but haven't received formal complaints."

"We've contacted the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Ministry of Health Affairs for investigation. We're also conducting our own inquiry," he added.

Starved and tortured

FROM PAGE 3

based in Libya.

PBI recovered a mobile phone used for the transaction and froze Farazi's bank account before any funds could be withdrawn.

In the early hours of February 18 (Bangladesh time), the captors dumped Alamgir and Siraj outside a hospital in Libya's Zilzia area.

"While in captivity, we saw four other Bangladeshi victims," Alamgir said. "On the day we were abandoned, three more Bangladeshi were brought in."

The two were eventually placed under the care of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with help from BRAC Migration, said the PBI official.

On June 9, PBI took Alamgir into custody upon his arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Efforts are ongoing to bring back Siraj, said the PBI official.

PBI recovered two mobile phones, screenshots of ransom-related bank slips sent to Libya, settlement documents of two bank accounts, audio and video recordings of torture and rescue, photos and videos of the victims during their stay with IOM, documents from BRAC Migration, and a BFU issued letter freezing the suspect's account.

Freeze

FROM PAGE 3

freeze 53 bank accounts of S Alam, his family members, and his beneficiaries over corruption allegations.

On June 24, the same court ordered the freezing and confiscation of foreign assets owned by S Alam and his wife Farzana Parveen in Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands, and the Jersey Islands.

On June 17, the same court ordered the anti-graft body to confiscate 200.26 acres of immovable property owned by S Alam, his family members, and their beneficiaries. The market value of the properties is Tk 180.61 crore.

Couple die in 'gas explosion' Daughter hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her husband died, and their three-year-old daughter suffered burns in a "gas explosion" at their residence in Jatrabari early yesterday.

Eti Akter, 30, with 45 percent burns, and Ripon, 40, with 70 percent, breathed their last at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery hours after the blast occurred around 1:45am on the ground floor of a six-storey building, said hospital sources.

Dr Shawon Bin Rahman, resident surgeon, said their daughter, Rafia, 3, who sustained 90 percent burns, is currently undergoing treatment.

Taslima Moni, a neighbour who took the victims to the hospital, said she and others were startled by a loud explosion in the middle of the night.

"The doors and windows of the house were blown off," she said.

Quoting victims and locals, Kazi Ramzanul Haque, inspector (investigation) of Jatrabari Police Station, said residents had been smelling gas -- possibly from a septic tank or a gas line -- for several days.

"We suspect leaked gas had accumulated inside the house and ignited when someone tried to light a mosquito coil," he said.

3 fishers missing after trawler capsizes in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three fishermen have gone missing, and nine others were rescued after a trawler capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Patharghata upazila in Barguna.

The incident, occurred on Tuesday night, came to light yesterday when the rescued fishers said the trawler FB Saiful returned to their respective areas, said Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of the Barguna District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association.

The missing fisherman -- Kabir Hiali, 45, Sohag, 30, and Gopal Chandra, 40 -- are from Patharghata, he said.

According to Mostafa, three trawlers -- including FB Saiful -- were fishing in close proximity when FB Saiful, carrying 12 crew members, capsized. Nearby trawlers managed to rescue nine of them, he added.

Patharghata Police Station OC Mehedi Hasan said, "After being informed of the incident by the trawler owners' association, we alerted the naval police in both Patuakhali and Barguna."

2 more die of dengue, 337 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 337 were hospitalised in the 24 hours until yesterday morning.

Among the deaths, one was reported in Chattogram division while another in Dhaka.

With these cases, the total number of deaths rose to 54 while total number of infections rose to 13,931, according to the DGHS. Of the total cases, 12,591 dengue patients have been released, of which 9,950 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,286 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, and 925 of which are from outside Dhaka.



রাবেয়া খাতুন কথাসাহিত্য পুরস্কার ২০২৫

উপন্যাস ও গল্পগ্রন্থ জমা দেওয়ার আহ্বান

বাংলা একাডেমি পরিচালিত 'রাবেয়া খাতুন কথাসাহিত্য পুরস্কার' ২০২৫ প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে ৪৯ (উনপঞ্চাশ) বছর বয়স পর্যন্ত (জন্ম : ১৯৭৬ সালে বা তৎপৰবর্তীকালে) কথাসাহিত্যকদের ২০২৪ সালে প্রকাশিত মানসম্মত উপন্যাস বা গল্পগ্রন্থ (একটি গ্রন্থের সাত কপি) আগস্ট ২০শে আগস্ট ২০২৫-এর মধ্যে বাংলা একাডেমির সংস্কৃতি উপরিভাগে জমা দেওয়ার আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে।

উপন্যাস বা গল্পগ্রন্থ জমা দেওয়ার সময় কথাসাহিত্যিককে বয়স প্রমাণের জন্য জ্ঞানবৰ্ধন সনদ/জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র/পাসপোর্টের সত্যায়িত কপি ও মোবাইল নম্বর জমা দিতে হবে। শুধু বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক এ পুরস্কারের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন। প্রয়োত ব্যক্তির গ্রন্থ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবে না।

ড. মুহাম্মদ মেজিদ জামান হক
তৎপৰিচালক (চলচ্চিত্র দায়িত্ব)
সংস্কৃতি উপবিভাগ
বাংলা একাডেমি
মোবাইল নম্বর : ০১৭১৪৭৩০৮৮

Request for Quotation: Call Centre System Upgradation Project

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals as well as business entities with a network of 191 Branches, 80 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,123 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. Currently, the bank is seeking a vendor for its Call Centre System Upgradation Project.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Technical Offer Submission is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ along with details of the bidding process can be found on the bank's website <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit the Technical offer as per the mentioned bidding process.



বাংলা একাডেমি

Rajshahi City Corporation
Engineering Department
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi
rajshahi.portal.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.99.076.25.687

Date: 09.07.2025

e-Tender Notice (IFT: 01/2025-26)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender document last selling time and date
1.	1130964	Construction of Central Park Mosque.	12:30pm on 31-Jul-2025

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

রাজিক/জ্ঞো-০২(২০২৫-২৬)

তারিখ: ১০/০৭/২৫

৮"X০

GD-1555

Md. Mahamudur Rahman
Executive Engineer (Development)
Rajshahi City Corporation
Mobile: 01717-136233
E-mail: xen_rcc@gmail.com



GD-1560

Indo-Pacific
a 'focal point
of US foreign
policy'

Rubio tells Asean
ministers

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met counterparts in Southeast Asia yesterday during his first visit to the region since taking office, reassuring them it is a priority for Washington, despite President Donald Trump's tariffs.

Washington's top diplomat joined foreign ministers of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur at a meeting that includes Australia, China, the European Union, Japan, Russia, South Korea



and Russia, and others.

The visit is part of an effort to renew US focus on the Indo-Pacific and look beyond conflicts in the Middle East and Europe.

"It is our view, and the reality that this century and the next, the story of the next 50 years, will largely be written here in this region, in this part of the world," Rubio told the gathering of Asean ministers.

"When I hear ... that perhaps the United States or the world might be distracted by events in other parts of the planet, I would say distraction is impossible," added Rubio, who doubles as national security adviser.



Displaced Palestinians make their way toward the Mawasi area as they flee amid an Israeli ground offensive in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

52 killed in Israeli strikes

Says Gaza civil defence agency as 'difficult' truce talks continue

AGENCIES

Gaza's civil defence agency yesterday said 52 people, including eight children, were killed in Israeli bombardments on the Palestinian territory.

Nearly half of those deaths were recorded in the central city of Deir el-Balah, where at least 17 people were killed, it said.

The series of strikes came just hours after Hamas, which runs Gaza, announced it was willing to release 10 Israeli hostages as part of ceasefire talks in Qatar. The Palestinian group also said it opposes any ceasefire deal that includes a large Israeli military presence in Gaza.

US President Donald Trump extended timeframe for the truce, saying there is a "very good chance" of a deal in Gaza this week or next, but Hamas said talks in Qatar have been "difficult" because of Israel's stubbornness, reports Al Jazeera online.

Gaza's civil defence agency official

↳ Hamas agrees to release 10 hostages as part of talks

↳ Trump says ceasefire deal close, this week or next

↳ Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian man in West Bank

Mohammed al-Mughairi said the latest wave of Israeli bombings hit central and southern Gaza. Eight children and two women were among the dead, he said, adding Israeli aircraft targeted "a gathering of citizens in front of a medical point".

Two people were killed in separate strikes on the Nuseirat camp while four lost their lives at the Bureij camp, both in central Gaza,

Mughairi said.

Five people living in tents in the Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis in the south, he added. Israel's strikes have killed at least 57,680 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian authorities said Israeli troops killed a 55-year-old man -- an incident the Israeli army said involved a stabbing attack.

The Ramallah-based health ministry said the body in charge of coordination with Israel informed it that soldiers "shot and killed" the man in Rummanah, near Jenin, in the morning.

Meanwhile, the United States said on Wednesday it was imposing sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the United Nations' special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, who has been very critical of US ally Israel's offensive in Gaza.

Iran threats
within UK
'significantly
increased'

Says intel watchdog

AFP, London

The threat posed by Iran in the UK has "significantly increased", with Iranian spies behind more than a dozen attempts to kill or kidnap British-based individuals since 2022, parliament's intelligence watchdog warned yesterday.

The UK government's response has been too focused on "crisis management" while concerns over Iran's nuclear programme have overly dominated, the Intelligence and Security

Committee of Parliament also concluded.

Its report comes amid growing alarm in Britain at alleged Iranian targeting of dissidents, media organisations and journalists in the UK, which has included accusations of physical attacks.

Iran in March became the first country to be placed on an enhanced tier of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS), which aims to boost Britain's national security against foreign influences.

"Iran poses a wide-ranging, persistent and unpredictable threat to the UK, UK nationals, and UK interests," Kevan Jones, chairman of the watchdog committee, said in the report's conclusions.

"Iran has a high appetite for risk when conducting offensive activity and its intelligence services are ferociously well-resourced with significant areas of asymmetric strength."

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We must protect our migrant workers

OKUP findings deserve critical scrutiny

The scale of the exploitation our migrant workers have faced over the years is truly shocking. A recent study by the Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP), based on 114 case studies of workers who sought legal help between January 2023 and October 2024, sheds light on just how systemic and devastating this exploitation has been. While the sample size may be modest, the patterns it reveals are consistent with what has long been reported anecdotally and through media investigations, pointing to a deeply entrenched and institutional neglect of responsibility in protecting our migrant workers.

As per the OKUP study, 36 percent of workers were forced to return home within just three months of migrating, crushing their hopes of a better future and even leaving many in deeper debt. Such abrupt, premature returns are only one side of a much larger problem, however. It includes contract substitution, lack of work permits, extortions, migration costs, etc. For example, 75 percent of workers left Bangladesh without receiving any prior employment contract while, shockingly, not a single female migrant received one before departure. Even among the 25 percent who did receive contracts, most got them just hours before their flight. Upon arrival, 47 percent of all migrants were denied work permits, and among those who received permits, only 24 percent were actually given the jobs they had been promised.

These findings point to a systematic betrayal of workers at every stage of the migration process, both at home and abroad. One revelation that almost all can relate to is that every male worker surveyed was charged migration fees well beyond the legal limits—often double for those heading to Saudi Arabia and six times higher for Malaysia. This is significant because these two countries are key destinations for our workers. Malaysia, in particular, has been in the news of late for exploitation-related cases. For instance, in May, 33 Bangladeshi workers filed a case in a Malaysian court against a recruitment firm and several government officials for alleged fraud. They said they were victims of human trafficking and job scams. In the first four months of 2025, over 3,500 Bangladeshi workers were also reportedly denied entry and sent back from Kuala Lumpur, many victims of such job scams. Also in May, another company revoked work permits of Bangladeshi workers after they aired concerns about its poor working conditions.

The OKUP study also raises serious questions about the effectiveness of the arbitration system for affected workers. While questioning the role of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) as being responsible for both issuing recruitment licences and settling disputes—an inherent conflict of interest—it reveals that there is currently no fair mechanism to ensure justice and no clearly defined standards for compensation or remedies. All these issues are interconnected and need to be resolved simultaneously to ensure the whole migration process is above board. OKUP's recommendations in this regard deserve serious consideration.

It is high time the interim government took comprehensive measures together with the authorities of destination countries to clean up this long-neglected process. Our migrant workers deserve dignity, protection, and justice. We must not let them be exploited any longer.

We need long-term climate solutions

Flood relief and rescue operations are not enough

Flash floods, waterlogging, and landslide risks have once again disrupted many lives and livelihoods as heavy rain lashed a number of districts across the country. In Feni, breaches in embankments along the Muhuri, Selonia, and Kohua rivers have reportedly triggered flash floods, marooning thousands and submerging at least 30 villages. Meanwhile, urban areas in Patuakhali, Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Barishal, Khulna, Noakhali, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati are suffering from severe waterlogging, while crops and vegetable fields in rural areas have been damaged. Landslide warnings have also been issued in the broader region of Chattogram.

While we cannot stop nature from taking its own course, effective preparations could have significantly reduced the extent of the damage. This should have been prioritised especially after last year's devastating floods in the southeast. At the time, political instability and disrupted local governance hampered relief efforts. Now, with a more stable administration in place, timely and efficient flood response is expected. Yet, in places like Feni, locals are dissatisfied with the preventive actions taken so far, particularly the lack of sturdy embankments and the maintenance of existing ones. Though some repairs were carried out since last year, people rightly expect permanent, not piecemeal, solutions. In Noakhali municipality, no substantial initiative to tackle waterlogging has been taken. The local administration cites lack of funds as the reason for not repairing its drainage system since last year's disaster, which is troubling given the recurrent nature of these events.

Though the situation may ease if rainfall subsides, local authorities must remain ready to provide immediate support to affected communities. More importantly, long-term measures are essential to protect people from recurring climate-driven disasters. We are told that at an Advisory Council meeting held on Thursday, discussions were held on building climate resilient infrastructure and mobilising funds for sustainable solutions. We urge the government to expedite the implementation of these projects. At the same time, we must continue to advocate for a fair share of international climate finance to ease our burdens. That said, the government must also ensure transparency and regular public updates on the use of the domestic flood relief fund launched last year.

Additionally, environmental destruction—such as rampant hill cutting, unchecked sand extraction from rivers, and encroachment on canals—must be stopped to reduce the impact of natural calamities. Climate change is already amplifying the frequency and intensity of these events. Without long-term planning, robust infrastructure, and strong environmental protection, we will continue to suffer the same fate every monsoon.

EDITORIAL

Our dreams are NOT for sale!



Manzur al-Matin
is an advocate of the Supreme Court and a
freelance anchor at Channel 24.

MANZUR AL-MATIN

July has returned! The depth of gratitude I feel for having survived the previous monsoon is difficult, if not impossible, to express in words. I, along with my wife Sara and so many of our friends who found ourselves united in protest in July 2024, could have easily lost our lives during those fateful days. But we were lucky to have witnessed the fall of the autocrat, the victory of the downtrodden.

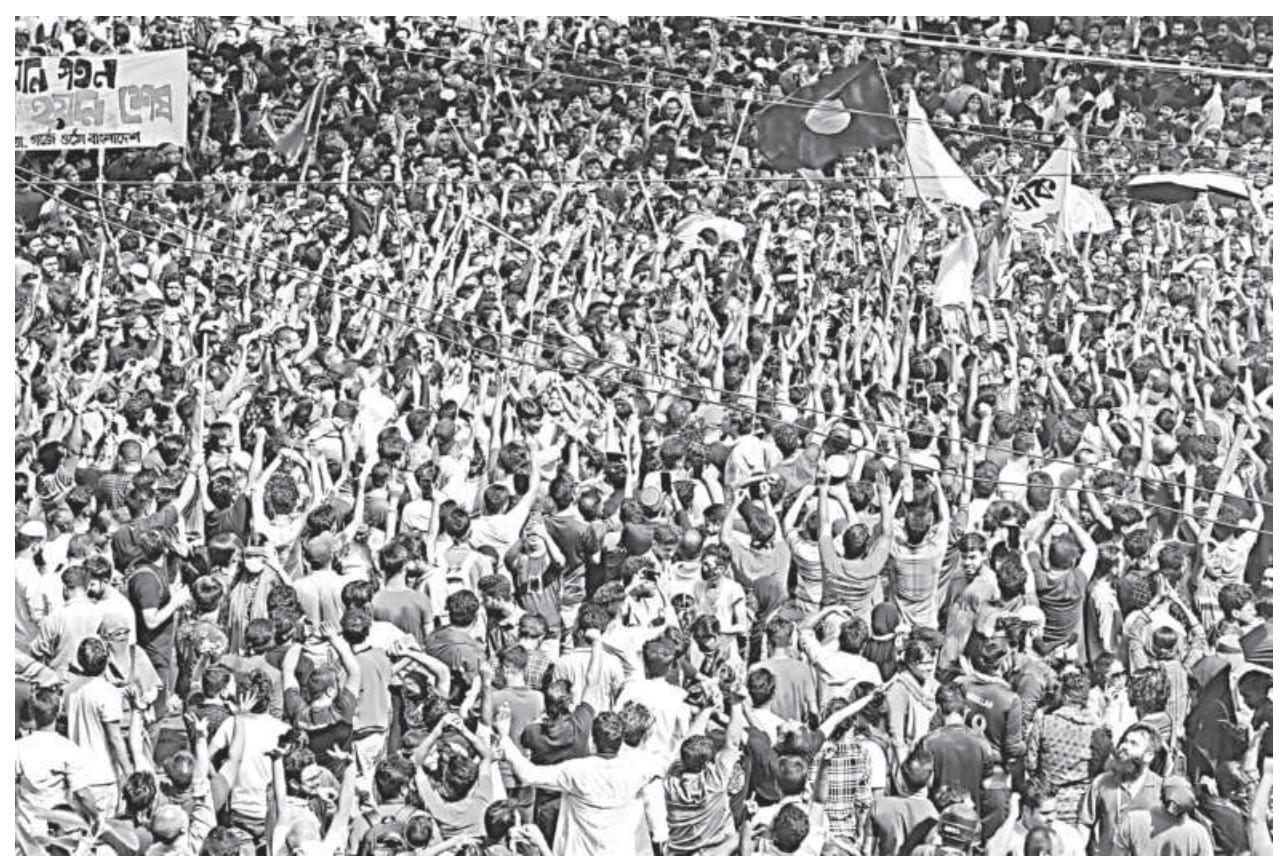
Not everyone was that lucky. The men, women, boys and girls whose bodies were riddled with bullets, who were hacked to their deaths, have left a vacuum that can never be filled. The emptiness left behind by Farhan, Snigdho or Saikat is unbearable for their families and will forever remain so.

These brave souls sacrificed everything believing that lasting change is possible—a belief shared by everyone who answered the call of their conscience during the July uprising. I guess challenging times bring out the best in us. Faced with a foe like Sheikh Hasina, solidarity came naturally. But when we managed to put that behind us, things became much more complicated.

Some of the students whose participation and leadership in the July movement made this extraordinary feat possible have now formed their own political party—

Sheikh Hasina failed to realise that the freedom, dignity and aspiration of the people can never be sold. This failure led her, along with the rank and file of the Awami League, to a disgraceful flight on August 5, 2024. Let this be a lesson for those who are treading the same path.

the National Citizen Party (NCP). Although rifts between its leadership at times become apparent, the latest programme of the party has received a lot of attention. Starting on July 1 this year, the NCP leadership has started a tour of the country,



Thousands of people celebrate the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the streets of Dhaka on August 5, 2024.
FILE PHOTO: STAR

reaching out to the very people whose spontaneous participation in the protests last year created history.

In my view, leaving the centre and reaching out to the periphery was a long-owed debt. Without lending an ear to the marginalised, the NCP can never find out what the true nature of their politics should be. The fact that, despite being late, they have taken the initiative gives me hope.

There are factions of the students who are far less organised but crave to have their voices heard. These are the students of universities, both public and private, and the students of schools and colleges. As their dreams fade, they still hold on to the hope that someday they will be given the opportunity to be heard. This is not only the responsibility of the government or the National Consensus

future of our country need to pause for a while and take time to listen carefully to what these voices have to say.

The women who left their homes and workplaces during the monsoon revolution were key to its success. Almost all the women who were at the forefront, braving all odds during the uprising, have faced bullying both online and offline in the aftermath. It is unfortunate that these people often feel left out nowadays. Any reform without their participation is bound to be unsustainable.

Finally, there are people who have placed personal gain over their responsibility to the nation. While we dream about finding a new settlement, with the weight of the sacrifices made by the martyrs upon our shoulders, some of us think it profitable to sell out the revolution itself for meagre personal gains.

learn a lot from Sri Lanka, a country which has gone through almost a similar set of events. Lessons must be learnt from the way the liberal and democratic forces there have remained united and secured an impactful political position after the uprising—how they have put their female leadership at the forefront, instead of marginalising them.

Sheikh Hasina failed to realise that the freedom, dignity and aspiration of the people can never be sold. This failure led her, along with the rank and file of the Awami League, to a disgraceful flight on August 5, 2024. Let this be a lesson for those who are treading the same path. I am certain it will not take another 15 years for the people to rise again. Because they know from recent memory that their dreams are NOT for sale. They know how and when to stand up for their freedom, dignity and dreams.

Money and power should never undermine justice



Naziba Basher
is a journalist at The Daily Star.

NAZIBA BASHER

There are stories that make you sick to your stomach, and then there are stories that remind you how little has actually changed in the country regarding women's safety, no matter who holds the reins of power.

The 2024 Subarnachar case is both. Back in February last year, a woman and her 12-year-old daughter were gang-raped in their own home in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila. Yes, a child—but I suppose by now, it comes as no surprise.

But instead of seeing the accused behind bars, we are now seeing the survivors being forced to leave their home amid death threats. They have been forced to sell everything and run—not because they are guilty, but because they dared to demand justice.

The prime accused is Abul Kair Munshi, a known local Awami League leader, who was arrested after the incident. However, he was released on bail in November and is now roaming free. Even though his party has been ousted, he roams confident enough to threaten his victims, confident enough to walk up to a survivor's face on court premises and threaten to kill them if they don't withdraw

the case. And even after the survivor filed a general diary (GD) with Char Jabbar Police Station on January 19, the threats have not stopped.

The officer-in-charge of the station confirmed the filing of the GD. He also said that "primary investigation found the allegation to be true." Yet, after the last hearing on June 24, Munshi told the victim he has money, so the court verdict will go in his favour.

Think about what that means.

A man accused of gang-raping a woman and her minor child has so little fear of consequences that he can openly brag about buying justice. And why shouldn't he? The way our legal system works, money has often spoken louder than the law, and political connections have shielded even the most disgraceful crimes.

But here is the brutal truth no one seems ready to face: no party should ever matter when it comes to justice.

The Awami League's fall was supposed to symbolise a new era—one where ordinary people could hope for justice, where survivors would be heard. And yet here we are.

It seems that one member of the party still clings to enough influence

to intimidate survivors, enough arrogance to believe his money will rewrite court verdicts, and to casually threaten families into exile.

What does that say about our so-called "new Bangladesh?"

The answer is obvious. It says that stripping a party of power does not strip the system of its rot.

The names change, the faces rotate, but the old system grinds on—

No political party, disgraced or not, should be able to shield criminals. No amount of money should tip the scales of justice. And no survivor should have to run for their life because the courts, the police, and the system itself refuse to protect them.

fuelled by fear, influence, and political impunity. It just goes to show that no matter which flag someone waves, justice remains optional when money and muscle enter the room.

What makes this case even more dangerous is the silence around it. Where are the fiery speeches from the new champions of justice? Where is the accountability they promised? If the new leadership truly meant to clean house, Munshi would not

dare to make a mockery of the legal system.

This is not about one family or one case. It is about every survivor who dares to stand up, only to be met with more violence, more threats, more reasons to regret speaking out. It is about the culture we breed, where victims flee their homes—just as the Muradnagar rape survivor had to leave due to pressure from so-called journalists—while the abusers flaunt their wealth and political ties, new or old.

The Subarnachar survivor did everything right. She reported the crime, pursued legal action, refused to stay silent. In return, she lost her home, her safety, her peace. Her child, already robbed of innocence, now lives with fear as a constant companion. Meanwhile, Munshi boasts about his influence, his money, and his expectation that verdicts can be bought like cheap commodities.

If the interim government is serious about reform, this is where they prove it. No political party, disgraced or not, should be able to shield criminals. No amount of money should tip the scales of justice. And no survivor should have to run for their life because the courts, the police, and the system itself refuse to protect them.

Until men like Munshi, and the myriad "politically powerful" rapists, are stripped of their influence, their protection, and their arrogance, all our promises of justice, change, and progress will remain exactly what they have always been—lip service full of empty words.

Are we ready for a proportional representation system?



Khan Khalid Adnan
is a barrister in England and Wales and an advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He also serves as the head of the chamber at Khan Saifur Rahman & Associates.

KHAN KHALID ADNAN

The interim government's reform drive, initiated last October through the formation of six commissions, has entered a crucial phase. These commissions—focusing on constitutional, electoral, judicial, administrative, and anti-corruption reforms—have submitted their reports. Now, the task of building political consensus on their recommendations rests with the seven-member National Consensus Commission, which began its work on February 15 under the leadership of the chief adviser. The commission's mandate is to facilitate dialogue and agreement among political parties on proposals that could fundamentally reshape the nation's governance framework.

One of the more contentious issues to have surfaced in recent discussions is whether Bangladesh should adopt a proportional representation (PR) system for future parliamentary elections. Political parties are divided. Bangladesh Jamaat-e Islami has publicly supported the idea and submitted proposals to that effect. Other parties have expressed similar interest, viewing PR as a route to more inclusive governance. But the BNP has strongly opposed it. Interestingly, despite the divide over PR, there is reported convergence on other structural reforms, such as the establishment of a bicameral legislature with a 100-member upper house and the assignment of the deputy speaker's role to the opposition.

To assess the feasibility of PR, one must return to the constitution. Article 65(2) provides that members of parliament shall be elected from single-member territorial constituencies by direct election. This enshrines the first-past-the-

post (FPTP) model as the basis of Bangladesh's electoral process. Any move to introduce PR for the lower house would require a constitutional amendment under Article 142, which demands a two-thirds majority vote in parliament—a hurdle that is currently insurmountable in the absence of an elected legislature.

Furthermore, the reform commissions themselves have not advocated for PR in the lower house, provided that the bicameral parliamentary model is implemented. The Constitution Reform Commission has proposed retaining the direct election model for the lower house while suggesting that the proposed upper house could be constituted through a proportional representation system (pages 51-52 of its report). Meanwhile, the Electoral Reform Commission, despite extensive consultations, refrained from making any recommendation on this issue, citing sharp political

It is tempting, in moments of democratic disillusionment, to look for structural fixes. But electoral systems are not magic wands. Their effectiveness depends on the political culture, institutional maturity, and level of public trust within which they operate.

disagreement (pages 84-87 of its report). The Electoral Reform Commission recognised that any change in the method of election

would require a consensus that simply does not exist at this stage.

The absence of any recommendation in favour of PR for the lower house has legal and procedural consequences. The mandate of the National Consensus Commission is confined to building agreement on the proposals previously submitted by the major

that the conversation about PR is unwarranted. As a theoretical model, PR has several merits. It promises to reduce the distortions produced by FPTP, under which a party can win an overwhelming majority of seats with a far smaller share of the popular vote. It offers a more inclusive framework, potentially giving smaller and emerging parties

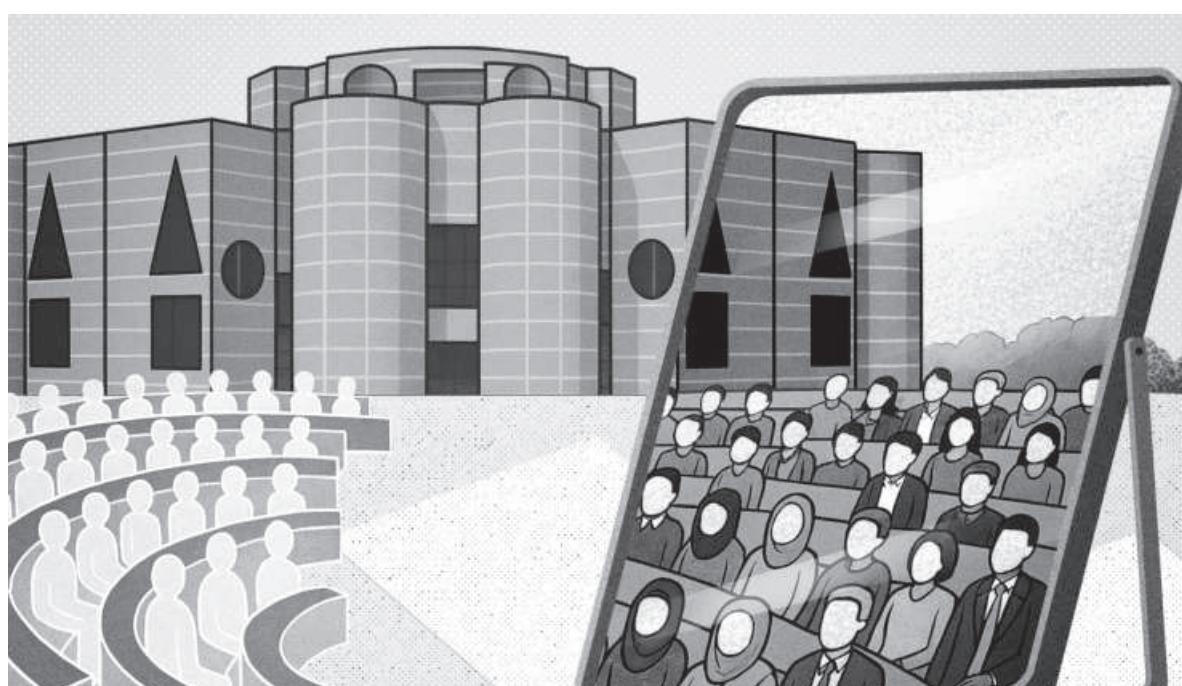
judged not in isolation but within the context in which it is to operate. Bangladesh's political culture is highly polarised. Its democratic institutions remain fragile. Electoral processes have been repeatedly marred by violence, boycotts, and allegations of irregularities. In this context, PR might introduce new complexities rather than resolve

lower house is limited. Recently, 60 eminent citizens publicly called for a PR-based upper house to enhance inclusion and accountability. However, they were cautious about replicating that model for the lower house, fearing legislative gridlock and excessive fragmentation. Their view aligns with the Constitution Reform Commission's recommendation: preserve direct elections in the lower house but use PR for the proposed upper chamber to ensure a balance between local representation and proportional fairness.

That, perhaps, offers a way forward. Bangladesh could consider a mixed electoral system in the future, combining FPTP and PR models. Such systems are used successfully in countries like Germany and New Zealand, where some parliamentary seats are filled by direct constituency vote and others by party list based on national vote share. Alternatively, Bangladesh could introduce PR incrementally, first at the local government level or in a newly created upper house, allowing for institutional adaptation and political learning.

For now, however, the road to a PR system in parliamentary elections remains closed—legally, politically, and procedurally. The current constitution does not allow it. The reform commissions have not endorsed it. The political consensus required to amend the constitution is absent. And the mandate of the National Consensus Commission technically does not extend to issues beyond the submitted reform proposals.

It is tempting, in moments of democratic disillusionment, to look for structural fixes. But electoral systems are not magic wands. Their effectiveness depends on the political culture, institutional maturity, and level of public trust within which they operate. PR may well be a worthy goal for the future. For now, Bangladesh must focus on restoring the credibility of its existing system, ensuring free and fair elections, and gradually building the conditions under which more ambitious reforms like PR could eventually take root.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

reform commissions, as it was established specifically to foster consensus around those earlier reform recommendations. Since the relevant commissions have not proposed PR for the lower house, this issue technically falls outside the scope of the current dialogue. More importantly, the Constitution Reform Commission has in fact proposed preserving the existing direct electoral system for the Jatiya Sangsad. It would therefore be institutionally inconsistent and procedurally misplaced for the National Consensus Commission to entertain a proposal that contradicts the reform roadmap already submitted.

This, however, does not mean

a fair chance at representation. It can encourage coalition politics, reduce political alienation, and better reflect the diversity of public opinion. In principle, PR systems also allow for greater representation of women, religious minorities, and other underrepresented groups. Unlike the existing system, which reserves seats for women through indirect party nominations, a well-designed PR system could enable women to be elected directly from party lists. Many countries that have adopted PR, such as Sweden, Nepal and South Africa, have seen marked improvements in the descriptive and substantive representation of marginalised groups.

Yet any electoral system must be

existing ones. Far from encouraging stable coalition governments, it could lead to fragmented parliaments filled with single-issue or regionally entrenched parties, making coherent governance difficult.

Another concern is institutional capacity. Implementing PR would require significant administrative reform, voter education, and legislative clarity. Public understanding of how votes translate into seats would need to be built through large-scale civic education programmes. Without careful preparation, the transition could create confusion and mistrust, further damaging an already strained electoral system.

Even among civil society, support for a blanket introduction of PR in the

WORLD POPULATION DAY

A fairer future depends on the empowerment of young people



Dr Mohammad Mainul Islam
is professor of the Department of Population Sciences at the University of Dhaka.

which is remarkably high when compared to other countries in the South Asian region, highlighting a significant challenge to early marriage, early childbearing, and associated health and social issues for young women. There is a significant gap between the total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.3, whereas the desired fertility rate is 1.3 (BDHS 2022).

Since 1990, the UN and other organisations have commemorated World Population Day (WPD) on July 11 of every year in partnership with governments and civil society to raise awareness about population issues, including their connections to the environment and development. This year's WPD theme is "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world."

This theme is particularly relevant for Bangladesh, where over one-third of the population is under the age of 25. According to the Population and Housing Census 2022 (PHC 2022), there are approximately 31.56 million people aged 15-24 years, who are considered youth by the UN. For the 15-29 age group, the figure is 45.94 million (PHC 2022).

These youths represent

significant numbers, challenges, and possibilities. We recognise that rights and choices are crucial concerns in development, particularly in population and development, as outlined in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. At the heart of human development lies the freedom to choose, and one of the most profound choices a person makes is whether, when, and how to create a family.

Young people should have the freedom to choose to delay marriage and parenthood. Despite progress, child marriage remains a serious challenge in the country. According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2022, over 50.7 percent of girls are married off before the age of 18, and over 16.7 percent by the age of 15, often leading to early and unplanned pregnancies, school dropouts, and long-term poverty. The BDHS 2022 report also reveals that the teenage pregnancy rate is 23.5 percent, a significant number of married adolescent girls in Bangladesh are having children. For every 1,000 adolescent married girls, 92 babies are born in a year,

services must be available, accessible, affordable, equitable, of high quality, and confidential. The BDHS 2022 reports that decision-making about family planning is the lowest among those aged 15-19 (85.5 percent) and 20-24 (81.6 percent). Community health workers, clinics, and other stakeholders should be trained and encouraged to serve adolescents. Government and NGOs must collaborate to raise awareness and combat harmful myths and taboos. When young people are healthy and informed, they can make decisions that benefit both their families and their communities.

Many young people in Bangladesh lack access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and rights (SRHR). The current contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is the low among those aged 15-19 (53.9 percent), as evidenced in the BDHS 2022, whereas the total CPR for those

aged 15-49 is 64 percent. The CPR rate for those aged 20-24 is also low (58.3 percent). The unmet need for family planning is highest among those aged 15-19 (12.3 percent) and 10.8 percent among those aged 20-24 (BDHS 2022). This leads to unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and poor maternal health outcomes. To empower youth, family planning

ensure gender equality and shared responsibility. Traditional gender roles often place the burden of childbearing and family care solely on women, limiting their freedom and opportunities. Empowering young women means giving them equal rights in marriage, parenting, and decision-making. Empowering young men means helping them learn to take responsibility, develop empathy, and offer support to their partners. In a fair Bangladesh, creating a family should be a shared, respectful partnership, not imposed by cultural or economic constraints.

Education and knowledge are considered the first line of defence. For that, access to quality education, especially for girls, is one of the most powerful tools for empowering youth to plan their futures. Girls who stay in school are more likely to marry later and have fewer, healthier children. Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) can help both girls and boys understand



In building a fair and hopeful Bangladesh, we must place young people—especially young women—at the centre of family, policy, and development planning.

PHOTO: CLICKLANCASHIRE.COM

Young people must be empowered to choose. Delaying marriage gives girls and boys the opportunity to complete their education, become financially independent, and make informed decisions about family life. Empowerment begins with freedom of choice and is supported by laws, communities, and families that uphold the dignity of young people.

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There is also an absolute need to

their bodies, relationships, rights, and responsibilities, which are essential knowledge for building healthy families. Expanding education to reach remote and marginalised communities remains a crucial step towards achieving

equal opportunities to address the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, there is a need to ensure economic stability and a sense of hope for the future. Young people cannot build strong families without financial stability. Yet many Bangladeshi youths face unemployment, job insecurity, and lack of access to credit or training. Youth unemployment is high. The PHC 2022 reports that 34.26 percent of the youth aged 15-24 are NEET (not in education, employment, or training). Adequate employment generation is strongly needed. Programmes like skill development, vocational training, microcredit, and entrepreneurship should be expanded for the youth, particularly young women. Social protection policies, such as maternity leave, childcare support, and affordable housing, can help young families thrive. A hopeful Bangladesh must provide real opportunities for youth to support the families they want to create.

Strong roles should be played by the government, private sector, and other key stakeholders in moving forward to build a more equitable, sustainable, and caring world where young people are empowered to pursue the lives they want for themselves. Government, civil society, and families must work together to enforce laws against child marriage and gender-based violence and promote youth participation in community and policy-making. More investment in education, healthcare, and job creation for young people is needed.

Finally, empowering young people to create the families they want is about more than reproductive rights; it is about justice, dignity, and opportunity. It means giving every young person, regardless of gender, income, or background, the tools and freedom to shape their future.



HBO Max greenlights 'THE BIG BANG THEORY' SPINOFF 'STUART FAILS TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE'

HBO Max has greenlit a new comedy series titled *Stuart Fails to Save the Universe*, a spinoff of the hit sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. Developed by Chuck Lorre, Zak Penn, and Bill Prady, the show stars Kevin Sussman as Stuart Bloom.

Joined by his girlfriend Denise (Lauren Lapkus), geologist Bert (Brian Posehn), and physicist Barry Kripke (John Ross Bowie), Stuart embarks on a mission to fix reality.

The series marks the fourth installment in *The Big Bang Theory* franchise, following *Young Sheldon* and *Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage*, and is produced by Chuck Lorre Productions and Warner Bros Television.

'MAINSTREAM' XEFER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The ever-rebellious Xefer was the talk of the town once again this Eid, with *Lichur Bagane* being hummed in tea-stalls and blasted in parties. She also lent her voice in *Dhamaka* in Tasnia Farin and Sariful Razz starrer *Insaaif*.

"Times have changed, and I feel like this journey of making my own brand and taking risks has culminated in this perceived success," says Xefer, over the phone. The singer had quite the career trajectory, from her album *Uncaged* to her first smash hit *Jhunka*, to now being featured in multiple festive hits after last Eid's *Niye Jaabe Ki*. "I thought a lot about my music and what I wanted to do during Covid", she reflects. "I believe that everything I did afterward led me to where I am today. I've stopped taking on lowball offers, attended music camps in the USA and collaborated with some of the best in the industry."

While it was unthinkable for an artiste who was thought to be 'niche' and a 'cover artiste' to become this popular, Xefer has certainly defied all odds to become a mainstay in the industry.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?



'Equanimity Sessions S03E01'

Equanimity Sessions (S03E01), a workshop on filmmaking for aspiring storytellers, is being held on July 14 at Studio Yellow Something Ltd, Niketan, Gulshan. Acclaimed filmmaker and Chorki CEO Redoan Rony will lead the session, sharing his creative journey, practical filmmaking tools, and insights on OTT-era storytelling.

The entry fee for the event is Tk 300. Registration is required, and seats are limited—available on a first-come, first-served basis. For further details, visit **Equanimity Sessions** on Facebook or call +8801643574435.

Date: Monday | July 14

Time: 6:30pm onwards

Venue: Studio Yellow Something Ltd, Niketan, Gulshan

Nepali film 'Missing' set for nationwide release in Bangladesh



The critically acclaimed Nepali film *Missing: Keti Harayeko Suchana* is set for a nationwide release in Bangladesh on July 18, 2025, under the SAFTA agreement.

Imported by Show Motion Limited in exchange for the Bangladeshi film *No Dorai*, the film will screen at all

Star Cineplex branches. Directed by Dipendra Gauchan, the film stars Srishti Shrestha and Najir Husen in a cross-cultural love story that begins with a dark twist—a drugging and abduction—and unfolds across Nepal's Madhesh region.

Praised for its depiction of folk traditions and scenic landscapes, the film explores love beyond ethnic boundaries. Star Cineplex's Mesbah Uddin Ahmed confirmed that screenings will take place in Dhaka and nationwide.

Ed Sheeran unveils debut painting collection in London



British pop star Ed Sheeran has debuted his first art exhibition, *Cosmic Carpark Paintings*, at the Heni art gallery in London, running from July 11 to August 1.

The collection features colourful, Jackson Pollock-inspired abstract works, some of which will be available for purchase, with part of the proceeds supporting the *Ed Sheeran Foundation*'s music education initiatives.

Sheeran, known for chart-topping hits like *Shape of You* and *Perfect*, began painting in 2019 after his *Divide* tour. He shared behind-the-scenes footage of his creative process, crediting Damien Hirst for encouraging the show. The works were created in a disused car park and inspired by celestial themes.

NEWS

'Help find my missing mother'

FROM PAGE 12

Foreigner Tribunal case (FT Case No/ Jo/13):

"After she was taken into custody, we came to know through social media that my mother had been pushed into Bangladesh. Later, we also heard she had returned to India from Bangladesh, but since then, we have received no further information," reads the letter.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Subhan said, "We are Indian nationals. The names of my grandfather, father, and mother are all listed in past voter lists. We have all the necessary documents to prove our citizenship."

Asked for possible reasons why his mother could be taken, he said that his family had an ongoing land dispute in Lankajan Darjisit of Nandapur Chariali, Hojai.

"Our rivals filed a case in 2011 with the local police station claiming we were Bangladeshi nationals. My mother was arrested in 2013 and jailed, but later the Supreme Court ruled in our favour and confirmed our Indian nationality. My mother was released afterwards."

According to Subhan, his mother was recently summoned by the superintendent of police to provide testimony and was then pushed into Bangladesh along with 65 others.

"After hearing the news, we went to the local BSF camp and submitted all documents proving our citizenship. BSF then held a meeting with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and brought back

some individuals. But I have not been able to trace my mother since."

"I just want my mother back home, nothing else."

Meanwhile, BGB declined to comment on the specific incident.

However, BGB Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui acknowledged that push-ins or pushbacks by BSF were happening regularly, including in some cases involving Indian nationals and Rohingyas.

"We've repeatedly asked the BSF for proper, legal handovers. But pushbacks are continuing. We have protested these incidents strongly," he told reporters after an event in Chattogram yesterday.

The BGB chief's remarks come amid mounting reports of Indian authorities pushing individuals, including Rohingyas and alleged undocumented migrants, into Bangladeshi territory, bypassing standard repatriation protocols.

According to government data, Indian authorities have forcibly pushed back over 1,900 people across the border into Bangladesh since May 7. Among them, over 200 were Rohingya refugees.

Asked about BGB's response, he said, "We asked for a systematic repatriation process. If a Bangladeshi has illegally entered India, we're willing to repatriate them through coordination meetings

with the BSF. In some cases, BSF follows this process and hands them over officially. But in many instances, they don't—and pushbacks continue."

He noted that the BGB has formally raised the issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs, which has also communicated concerns to India via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian High Commission.

On a separate note, the BGB chief mentioned a manpower shortage in the force.

"We currently have around 57,000 personnel to cover a border stretching 4,427 km, much of it through difficult terrain. We need more manpower. The process to increase it is ongoing."

He said a new battalion was recently established in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, and more are being planned in other locations.

"We're also expanding border outposts (BOPs), and the current government has promised to recruit around 5,000 new personnel. We hope to complete their recruitment and training soon."

The DG said that just a day before, BGB held a meeting with the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to discuss these issues.

"It was a detailed discussion—not just about BGB, but also about addressing manpower shortages across other law enforcement agencies. Increasing manpower is a time-consuming and costly process, but it is in progress."

rainfall of the current monsoon season, recording a total of 380 millimetres over the past six days. In the last 24 hours alone, 93.3 millimetres of rain were recorded.

The continuous downpour has inundated low-lying areas of coastal upazilas, including Monpura, Tajumuddin, Char Fasson and Sadar. Although water levels have begun to recede, many areas remain waterlogged, leaving residents stranded.

Over in Rangamati, road communication on Langadu-Dighinala has remained suspended.

People are using boats to pass through the roads. The water level of the Maini River is increasing due to heavy rainfall, said locals.

Torrential rainfall caused waterlogging in most parts of Pirojpur town, including Bottola, Amanatganj and Rupatali.

Bhola has experienced the highest

EC wants power

FROM PAGE 12

On costs, Sanauullah said a single postal ballot would cost Tk 700 via public post and up to Tk 5,000 using private couriers.

To oversee and expedite election preparations, the EC has formed five coordination and oversight committees, each headed by an election commissioner.

These seven member teams will oversee law and order, field administration, polling official training, electoral laws and inquiries, expatriate voting, and coordination with both local and international observers.

This move comes a day after Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus directed the EC to complete all election preparations by December.

On delimitation, the EC said its technical committee is reviewing constituency boundaries.

The delimitation process is at its final stage. There have been no objections in 221 constituencies. We hope to publish the full draft next week," said Sanauullah.

The issue of amending the Representation of the People Order (RPO) was discussed and will be revisited in future meetings.

The EC also reviewed a proposal for the EC Secretariat Act, suggesting a new "Election Commission Service"

structure for recruiting officials like the EC secretary.

Until then, the commission will continue operating under the current system.

In terms of voter list updates, 4,406,602 new voters have been identified, while 2,132,590 deceased voters have been removed. A supplementary voter list will be released next week.

On the topic of unused EVMs, the EC has formed a committee to determine what action should be taken.

"EVMs will not be used in any upcoming election," Sanauullah reaffirmed.

Regarding a recent meeting with the National Consensus Commission, he said, "We had detailed discussions. It lasted two hours. We are on the same page."

Asked whether separate polling centres will be set up for young voters, he replied, "If there's a proposal aimed at motivating young voters who have become disinterested in voting, we will definitely consider it."

As for NID corrections, Sanauullah noted that when the current commission took over, 374,000 correction applications were pending.

"Over the past seven months, we have resolved 900,000 applications. Currently, 74,000 are pending."

Parties agree

FROM PAGE 12

use and misuse of articles 141A, 141B and 141C of the constitution.

Article 141A empowers the president to declare a state of emergency if the nation's security or economy is threatened by war, external aggression or internal disturbance.

Article 141B allows laws or executive actions that override certain fundamental rights, including freedoms of movement, assembly, association, speech, profession and property, during emergencies.

Article 141C allows the president to suspend enforcement of these rights and halt related court proceedings while an emergency is in effect.

All parties agreed to remove "internal disturbance" as a valid ground from article 141A. They proposed that only constitutional crises, pandemics, natural disasters, foreign invasion or threats to sovereignty be deemed acceptable.

Sanauullah stressed that emergency declarations should require full cabinet approval, not just the prime minister's. The BNP also demanded that certain rights, particularly the right to life and protection from torture, remain intact during emergencies, unless someone is being prosecuted under article 47(3) for war crimes or genocide.

NCP's Akhtar Hossain warned that vague terms like "internal disturbance" have been used to suppress dissent in the past.

"Currently, the president can declare an emergency with the prime minister's countersignature. We propose that this require prior cabinet approval, or preferably approval from an all-party parliamentary committee or the full parliament."

Jamaat's Azad agreed: "Article 141A should be amended. Emergency powers must never become political weapons. We have also proposed ensuring citizens retain access to legal recourse during emergencies."

He suggested that the next parliament form a cross-party committee in its first session to review and recommend emergency declarations. "It should include ruling and opposition members to ensure balanced decision making."

Sanauullah reiterated the need to curb political misuse of emergency powers. "There was broad agreement to reform articles 141B and 141C for this reason."

Prof Ali Riaz, vice president of the Consensus Commission, expressed optimism about the progress made in the discussion yesterday. "We hope to reach consensus on the remaining critical issues in upcoming sessions."

18 judges forced

FROM PAGE 12

Most of the forced retired judges were serving as special judges in various districts and different tribunals.

Of them, Bikash Kumar Saha, district and sessions judge, Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman, district and sessions judge, Md Nurul Islam, additional district and sessions judge, and Mohammad Hossain, joint district and sessions judge, are currently attached to the Law and Justice Division in Dhaka.

The other judges are Sheikh Mofizur Rahman (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Rajbari; Md Mahbubur Rahman Sarkar (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 1, Kishoreganj; Sheikh Golam Mahbub (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Kushtia; Md Mojibur Rahman (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 1, Gaibandha; Md Ehsanul Haque (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Bhola; Md Jewel Rana, (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Thakurgaon; Jonjonrapota Bighnokari Oporad Domon Tribunal (Public Safety Disrupting Crimes Prevention Tribunal), Khulna; Md Monir Kamal (district and sessions judge), Cyber Tribunal, Sylhet; Shahidul Islam, special judge (district and sessions judge), Patuakhali; Al Mahmud Faizul Kabir, special judge (district and sessions judge), Dinajpur; Md Nazimuddoula, district and sessions judge, Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Tangail; AKM Mozammel Haque Chowdhury (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Thakurgaon; Fazle Elahi Bhuiyan (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 3, Habiganj; Md Rustum Ali, member (district and sessions judge), Administrative Tribunal, Barisal; and AKM Enamul Karim, additional district and sessions judge, Patuakhali.

Publish July Charter

FROM PAGE 12

said, "Our fight is for a discrimination-free, democratic, extortion and corruption-free Bangladesh. That fight is not over yet. We are here to deliver that message."

The NCP leader also said the party would expand its organisational activities in Magura, urging the people there to raise their voices against corruption and extortion.

"Ten people from Magura were martyred in the July mass uprising," said Nahid.

"We all have to uphold the honour of their blood. We must remember they gave their lives for a new Bangladesh, to rebuild the country. That is why we are on the streets," he said.

Every country faces

FROM PAGE 3
Bangladesh and has long been a key partner in the country's efforts to combat terrorism and enhance security.

"US support in training and equipment has played a vital role in building the capacity of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police," he said.

Jahangir thanked the Chargé d'Affaires for the assistance and requested continued cooperation in the sector.

Expressing a commitment to cooperate in Bangladesh's security sector, Bouldin said every country faces some level of risk from terrorism and militant attacks, and Bangladesh is no exception.

Bangladesh should nonetheless remain vigilant in this regard, she added.

In response, the adviser said there is no militancy in Bangladesh at present. "Occasionally, banned political parties try to organise rallies and demonstrations, but law enforcement agencies are strictly countering those attempts," he said.

Work together

FROM PAGE 3
"Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world" -- is very timely.

Noting that a skilled population is the country's asset, the chief adviser said about 30 percent of Bangladesh's total population are adolescents and young people.

The country's socio-economic development depends on the education, health, standard of living, and empowerment of this large section of the population, he added.

Govt takes steps

FROM PAGE 3
Simultaneously, steps will be taken to rationally increase newspaper advertisement rates.

As per the commission's recommendations, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) will conduct a survey to assess audience, viewer, and reader satisfaction with media content.

To promote fair competition in the advertising industry, the ministry will consult the Bangladesh Competition Commission to investigate any alleged unfair practices.

The security deposit fee for FM radio licenses will be revised and reduced to a more reasonable level, the statement read.

In consultation with the National Board of Revenue (NBR), steps will be taken to exempt columnists, contributors, artists, and guest presenters or discussants in the media from advance income tax

on their honorarium.

A primary decision has been taken to remove the mandatory use of Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL) for television channels' uplink and downlink services.

Moreover, the curriculum of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) and the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) will be updated, and efforts will be made to enhance their institutional capacity.

A preliminary decision has also been taken to establish the BCS Information Academy for training officials of the Information Cadre.

On July 7, a Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) meeting was held at

Woman's body found in Ctg flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered 11 dismembered body parts of a woman from a flat in Chattogram's Raufabadi area early yesterday.

The victim, Fatema Begum Poli, 32, was from Noakhali.

The incident occurred between 7:00pm and midnight on a JF Tower flat in the city's Paharika Residential Area.

Her husband, Md Suman, a pickup van driver, went into hiding after the incident, said Bayzid Bostami Police Station OC Md Kamruzzaman. He said police recovered several sharp weapons from the flat, including two scissors, a machete, a knife, a bati (traditional cleaver), and a saw.

Footprints and other evidence were also collected from the flat, the OC added.

SI Abid Hossen said being informed by neighbours, police reached the flat around 12:30am and recovered the body parts, which were sent to CMCH for autopsy. Efforts are underway to arrest the husband, said the OC.



Two friends share chips and laughter under an umbrella, embracing the downpour at Bells Park field in Barishal city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Thousands suffer

FROM PAGE 4

Golam Kibria Pioul, upazila engineer of the Local Government and Engineering Department, said a spot survey and soil test were conducted, and a proposal for constructing a 100-metre bridge at the site was submitted last year. If approved, construction will begin, he added.

Contacted, Md

July injured to get

FROM PAGE 3

He said the project is being treated as a priority and efforts will be made to start and finish it on time. "If we get approval from ECNEC this month, we will begin the procedure as early as possible. The timeframe of the project is from July 2025 to June 2029," he said.

The final list of recipients will be determined later through consultations between the July Directorate, the NHA, and the ministry. Flats will be allocated based on the severity of injuries, he added.

On July 7, a Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) meeting was held at

China backs govt's

FROM PAGE 3

During the meeting, both sides expressed confidence in the prospects of the bilateral ties.

Recalling recent Investment Conference of China in Bangladesh, Wang Yi expressed China's interest to work with Bangladesh in the field of textiles, energy, light engineering, among others.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain acknowledged with deep appreciation the political and development support extended by China to the current government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus.

He reiterated Bangladesh's call for an urgent and immediate solution to the Rohingya crisis and asked for China's support in this regard.

Touhid Hossain also urged China to support

the Planning Commission to discuss the project, titled "Construction of 1,560 Residential Flats in Dhaka's Mirpur 9 for Permanent Housing of Families of July Fighters Who Lost Their Ability to Work in the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement".

Officials said the project was given the green light at that meeting.

According to a government notice, 493 people have been categorised as "critically injured" (Category A), and 908 as "seriously injured" (Category B) during the July uprising -- totalling 1,401 individuals.

Bangladesh in regional and multilateral platforms, including in the United Nations.

Later in the afternoon, he also met with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and discussed possible means to expand bilateral relations, especially in the field of trade.

Anand expressed Canada's support in resolving the longstanding Rohingya crisis.

The foreign adviser was accompanied by Shameem Ahsan, high commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia; Forhadul Islam, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other senior officials of Bangladesh.

Touhid is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the 32nd ARF Ministerial Meeting, which is set to begin today.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka

Memo No. 44.01.0000.431.31.002.2025/2355

Date: 10 July, 2025

Invitation for Local Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/Suppliers/Local Agents in their official letterhead pad for the purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police. Manufacturers/Suppliers/Local Agents must read and fill up the tender documents cautiously, so that the offered package complies with the tender documents. Conditional or alternative offer shall not be evaluated.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.			
2. Agency	Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka			
3. Head of procuring entity	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police			
4. Invitation for	Purchase of goods (Automobile Spare Parts)			
5. Invitation Reference No.	Memo No. 44.01.0000.431.31.002.2025/01 (2025-2026) FY			
6. Date	10 July, 2025			
KEY INFORMATION				
7. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
8. Budget and source of fund	GOB (Revenue)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
9. Tender Package No.	Package 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12.			
10. Tender package name	Supply of Automobile Spare Parts			
11. Tender publication date	11 July, 2025			
12. Tender last selling date	06 August, 2025			
13. Tender closing date and time	07 August, 2025 at 12.00pm			
14. Tender opening date and time	07 August, 2025 at 12.30pm			
Designation of the officer & address				
15. Address of	Addl. DIG (MT & Workshop), Level-4, NCCOM Building, Police Headquarters, Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.			
-Selling tender document				
-Receiving tender document				
-Opening tender document				
16. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	31 July, 2025 at 15.00pm, Level-4, NCCOM Building, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.			
17. Eligibility of tenderer	(i) Up-to-date trade license (ii) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate (iii) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate (iv) Other papers described in the tender document.			
18. Brief description of goods	Automobile spare parts			
Pack age	Description of spare parts/goods	Price of tender document	Tender security amount (BDT)	Completion time
(1)	Spare Parts of Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep, L-300 Microbus, L-200 Pick-up, Fuso Rosa Minibus. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(2)	Nissan Patrol Jeep, Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep (Patrol), Daihatsu Terios and Mitsubishi Out Lander Jeep. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(3)	Spare Parts of Toyota V8 Land Cruiser Jeep, Fortuner Jeep, Hi-Ace Microbus, Hi-lux Pick-up, Dyna Truck. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(4)	Spare Parts of Nissan Civilian Minibus, Urban Microbus, Nissan Pick-up, Isuzu Ambulance, Isuzu Truck, Isuzu & Ford Pick-up. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(5)	Spare Parts of Mitsubishi Galant, Xpander, Lancer, Toyota GLI, Proton, Nissan and Hyundai Sonata Car. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(6)	Spare Parts of Tata Truck/ Bus, Water & Fuel Tanker, Ashok Leyland and HINO Truck. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(7)	Spare Parts of Fork Lift, Wrecker and Riot Van/Water Canon. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	2,00,000/-	
(8)	Spare Parts of Yuejin, Eicher Jumbo, Kamaz, Hino and Taima Truck/Tanker. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(9)	Tyre & Battery. (Lot 1 to 2)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(10)	Servicing & Vulcanizing, Welding, Tailoring, Electric & Auto Electric, Painting Goods & Items. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(11)	Spare Parts of Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) & Crowd Control Vehicle. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(12)	Spare Parts of Motorcycle. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	2,00,000/-	

For the financial year (2025-2026) & till next contract to be in effect.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19. Name & address of the official inviting tender	Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM-Sheba, Addl. DIG (MT & Workshop), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.					
20. Contact details of the official inviting tender	Tel: 02-55101708 Email: addldigmt_w@police.gov.bd					
21. Important conditions:						
a. Bangladesh Police will sign a framework agreement with successful tenderer(s) for supply of goods. Purchase order will depend on the demand of FPU Mission & PHQ's MT Section.						
b. Tender will be evaluated on item basis.						
c. Other terms and conditions are mentioned in tender documents.						
d. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any/all tenders or annul the tender proceeding at any time without causing any reason.						
e. If it is not possible to receive or open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and venue.						
f. The procurement will be done according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 & Public Procurement Regulation-2008.						

Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM-Sheba

Addl. DIG (MT & Workshop)

For/- Inspector General, Bangladesh Police

Police Headquarters, Dhaka

Tel: 02-55101708

E-mail: addldigmt_w@police.gov.bd



how it is for many of our mothers: they marry men and stay for the fathers.

When I was little, my mother never said a word about my father. But my adulthood opened something in her, and now the sorrow comes in drips, like a leaking tap that has stood the test of time. Little shards of memory, not loud, not angry, just quiet things like the burden of never being appreciated for the things she brings to the table, sometimes as a working woman, and sometimes as a homemaker. Grief in teaspoons, not tumults. A woman's sadness, served gently.

But little does she know that I noticed her sadness well before she held out her little hands to me.

My father sees my mother's labour as breath, as weather, as something that arrives without asking and will never leave. He does not name it, does not thank it—why thank the sun for rising? The hours she works outside the house and then inside it crumble into one long, invisible shift. He believes himself a good man—better than most—because once, he cleared the table, and once, he cooked rice and left the kitchen glowing with his own virtue. But he forgets: these were choices he made, little gestures seeking applause. For my mother, there were no choices.

My friend, whose mother is a homemaker, told me this story about his parents that still makes me sad because much of it resonates with my life. So, his dad, freshly retired and full of what I can only call "breakfast ambitions", casually announces he'd like fresh parathas every morning from now on. Now, here's the kicker: everyone knows his mom has to be out the door early for work, and making fresh parathas is no quick microwave fix.

My friend found the whole request, frankly, a bit absurd. Who asks for something so time-consuming without thinking about the logistics? He told his father this, protesting on his mother's behalf, but you could see it—the poor guy was genuinely bummed. Like, breakfast without the perfect flaky paratha just wasn't going to cut it. The funny thing is, his mother still got up early to make parathas for breakfast, unthanked.

So, yes, my father is not malicious. But he is inconsiderate in ways that chip away slowly and wear a person down without ever raising his voice. He does not thank her because it does not occur to him that thanks are needed. He thinks he is a good husband because he ate the food he did not enjoy, because he sometimes does the smidgen and expects it to count for more. But he forgot what it means to be a partner. His wife, my mother, bore it all in silence, her love turned into labour, her days a long line of things he did not notice.

It used to be very difficult to see him as a product of patriarchy because he spoke the language of my discontent. Maybe he is a funny person because he did not have to worry about dinner, never had to rush home with a mind already full of tomorrow. Seeing my father as a person truly revealed my fear of becoming like my mother as a wife (should I choose to be one someday). So instead of being an agreeable daughter who has to fill in my mother's shoes, I choose to throw the shoes away because they give me the same blisters they gave my mother.

My father as a person

My father is not malicious; he is kind, generous with affection, and funny. He surprises me with things I love to eat, he makes me tea some days, he makes jokes when I am bummed but when I observe him as a person who is a husband to my mother, I have to see him from a different light.

ALKI HUSSEIN

I had never thought to question what it meant to be a daughter. In the way that roles settle around us before we are old enough to name them, mine was inherited. I learned very early to step into my mother's shoes when she was not there to fill them herself. In a South Asian household, familial duties are not so much assigned as observed, I believe.

With that "doing something unquestioningly", I forgot to observe my father as a person.

I was the one to learn to serve the men of the house. My mother is a wise woman, always managing work and her home in ways I see as exploitative, but I believed in anatomy is destiny as a girl groomed by the status quo. One does not need to quote Marx, Engels, or Fromm because these are felt when you have little to leverage on. Theories came much later in life, but 15-year-old me could understand the jargon quite easily thanks to my role as a "good daughter".

Even though the two are often conflated in

our part of the world, I quickly understood the difference between being a good father and a good husband. This comes as no surprise when my father always focused on putting food on the table, even though my mother put the same amount of food on the same table, but also had the duty of being a good homemaker. She, just like me, never questioned it, nor did my father, because why would he? He occupied the sweet spot of modern manhood—progressive enough to "allow" his wife to work, traditional enough to expect warm meals waiting for him at the end of the day. It was a winning arrangement, at least for one of them.

See, it is incredibly tricky writing about a man who is both loved and implicated. My father is not malicious; he is kind, generous with affection, and funny. He surprises me with things I love to eat, he makes me tea some days, he makes jokes when I am bummed but when I observe him as a person who is a husband to my mother, I have to see him from a different light. The tenderness he shows me does not undo the comfort he has enjoyed for years in a marriage that has asked more of one than the other. It is a strange, dissonant thing to hold someone close and still see the ways they benefit from a system that has kept another you love in its debt.

I ask my mother what she likes about her husband, but she lists things he does as a father. The reliability of fatherhood is mistaken for the affections of a spouse. I suppose this is

stability was the dream, and we now have it—shouldn't we be allowed to dream beyond survival? What good is security if we must live the same life our parents did, minus the hunger? What is even the point of financial stability if the child has to pursue the same mediocrity its parents had to while battling financial instability?

The truth is, many of these parents do want their kids to succeed. But they want that success on their terms: the right degree, the right job, the right life. Too often, the kids are cast in unfinished stories—asked to chase dreams that were never theirs to begin with. With the security the children have been provided with, the parents want them to complete whatever incompleteness they had in life. A more prestigious institution, a bigger job, a grander title—the kids end up chasing goals the parents had defined for them, living someone else's incomplete life.

And perhaps the greatest tragedy?

So many of us are strangers to the very people we call family. Parents might see their children every day without the slightest idea of who they actually are. So, here's the question: If we trade away our dreams for someone else's definition of success, even if it's wrapped in love and sacrifice, are we really living or just existing?

Reach Ifti's spam at hasiburashidifti@gmail.com

The growing chasm of BookTok

SIWLAT QUADER

Although there had been a readers' community on YouTube and Goodreads, where people from all across the globe reviewed and shared recommendations of all types of genres of books, it did not garner nearly as much attention as the community on TikTok, otherwise known as BookTok. What worked for the community was its short videos, which created a fast-growing forum where readers and writers came together to connect over the shared love of books.

Not only did BookTok captivate readers to pick up titles based on the short videos but it also played a significant role in reviving the publishing industry, which had been witnessing a steady decline with fewer book sales. Readers found renewed interest in each content that they consumed, while many others continued to join the community. With a new flock of readers to cater to, authors were also compelled to write and publish new works.

During its early rise, BookTok had positively influenced both readers and writers alike—quantified through millions of views, trendy challenges, visually appealing montages, reviews, and recommendations. However, like all chapters, no matter how beloved, the glory days of BookTok too, is beginning to come to an end.

Despite its soaring success, criticism from critics has been levied against the sub-community—with many accusing it of enabling overconsumption, promoting anti-intellectualism, and normalising problematic tropes.

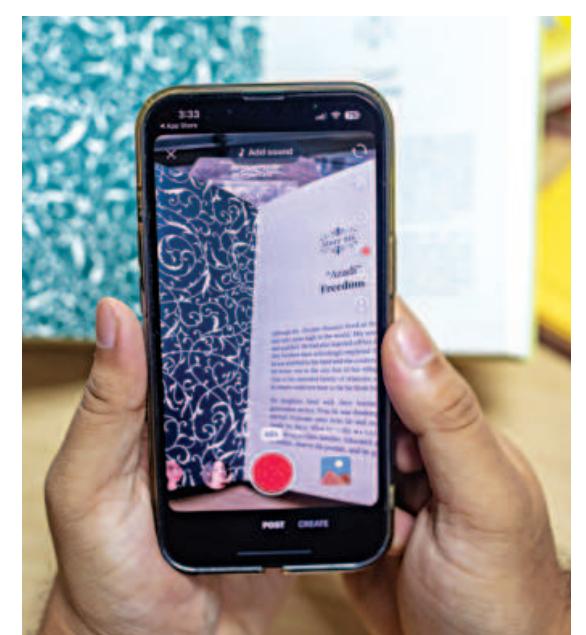


PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

The influx of content featuring beautifully illustrated book covers that particularly cater to the visual aspect has led many to buy books exclusively for aesthetics. As a result, more books with eye-catching covers have been printed and sold compared to simple or "mundane" ones, inciting a performative reading culture.

The impact that BookTok has had in rejuvenating the industry is undeniable. Nonetheless, it has adversely skewed the market by heavily promoting a narrow range of genres, especially to a younger audience. For instance, young adult (YA) books exploring mature themes featuring content that may not be age-appropriate are falsely advertised to an underage audience.

Additionally, books with explicit themes are marketed under the broad label of romance. While young readers may not be the target audience for these books, it still remains accessible to them. The increasing demand and popularity for this particular genre isn't the issue. Rather, it is the fact that some writers tend to weave in themes of trauma, violence or abuse through a romanticised lens. This is not only a gross misrepresentation but also deeply harmful to impressionable young readers.

Some writers have incorporated such attributes out of fear that refusal to conform will curtail their publication chances, while others followed suit more willingly. In fact, authors are pushed by publishing houses to keep generating these tired, clichéd dark romances, as they bring in most sales.

What used to be a space where readers could share individual ideas and opinions has now transformed into an echo chamber. Criticism or perspectives that differ from the general view are mostly dismissed, leading many to distance themselves from their once-cherished BookTok community. Moreover, the oversaturation of similar genres published and marketed reinforces the lack of diversity on the platform, which is yet another reason readers are taking a step back.

BookTok has also come under scrutiny because of the promotion of recycled tropes that deliver little literary depth. As a result, the consensus is that readers are not gaining any substantial value and are missing out on the enriching experience that literature is meant to offer. Change in the reading culture with time and age is inevitable. And literature should evolve and transform accordingly. However, it is not evolution if the changes actively take away from the wonders of reading.

When a child is their parents' second chance

Do your parents see you as individuals with your own choices, or do they see you as extensions of themselves?

HASIB UR RASHIDIFTI

Bangali parents are perhaps one of the most complex species to exist. No two are ever quite the same. Yet, if you squint hard enough, you might notice that most fall into two broad camps: those who see their children as individuals with own choices, and those who see them as extensions of themselves.

Both kinds have the same parental fears that all parents have had since time immemorial—concern about kids' safety, their future, and their security in life. But it's the way in which they approach these insecurities that makes these two groups so vastly different.

The first group of parents respects their child's individuality and acknowledges them as a separate entity with their own choices. They don't always agree with the decisions their children make, but they allow room for difference. There are arguments, of course—sometimes loud and chaotic—but the arguments happen because voices are allowed to exist. The child is allowed to hold opinions different to their parents and there are conversations regarding the difference rather than the parent refusing to hear it out in the first place.

Then there's the second group—the one whose love comes with invisible strings. Here, parental concern

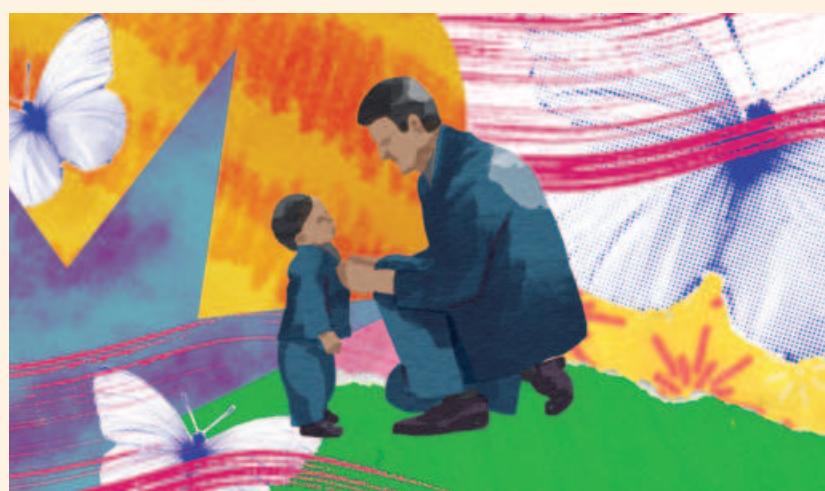


ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN

morphs into control. While it might originate from parental attachment, it slowly grows into a parasitical branch grasping over every single aspect of the child's life. Not just academic or career choices, the control slowly transforms into micromanaging the daily life and absolute control over the child's emotions. Sadness is met with impatience. Anger is punished, not explored. But where does this parental trait originate from?

Most of our parents grew up in post-independence Bangladesh—scarred by uncertainty, defined by struggle. For many of them, life was about survival: moving to cities with empty

pockets, working jobs they didn't love, sacrificing dreams they couldn't afford to chase, and so on. Their fight was to provide us with what they never had: stability. Chasing stability and growth, they had to let go of aspirations, ambitions, and their own self-interests. They simply couldn't afford to risk it all.

With time, they were able to provide their children with the financial backup that they didn't have. Thanks to their sacrifices, most of us have a place to land if or when we fall. But in the quest to make sure we never fall, many forgot to let us fly.

Here lies the paradox: If financial

stability was the dream, and we now have it—shouldn't we be allowed to dream beyond survival?

What good is security if we must live the same life our parents did, minus the hunger? What is even the point of financial stability if the child has to pursue the same mediocrity its parents had to while battling financial instability?

The truth is, many of these parents do want their kids to succeed. But they want that success on their terms: the right degree, the right job, the right life. Too often, the kids are cast in unfinished stories—asked to chase dreams that were never theirs to begin with. With the security the children have been provided with, the parents want them to complete whatever incompleteness they had in life. A more prestigious institution, a bigger job, a grander title—the kids end up chasing goals the parents had defined for them, living someone else's incomplete life.

And perhaps the greatest tragedy? So many of us are strangers to the very people we call family. Parents might see their children every day without the slightest idea of who they actually are. So, here's the question: If we trade away our dreams for someone else's definition of success, even if it's wrapped in love and sacrifice, are we really living or just existing?

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Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY JULY 11, 2025, ASHAR 27, 1432 BS

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

SAFF U20 Women's C'ship
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
Live from 3:00 pm
Nepal vs Bhutan
Live from 7:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 1 AND 5

England vs India
2nd Test, Day 2
Live from 4:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT
HD1 AND 2
Wimbledon
Live from 6:00 pm



LANKANS OUTCLASS TIGERS

It took Sri Lanka 19 overs to assail Bangladesh's mediocre 155-run target in the first T20I at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium yesterday, but the seven-wicket win for the hosts was much more convincing than the scoreboard suggests. Having limited the Tigers to 154 for five in 20 overs, Sri Lanka got off to a flying start. Openers Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis stitched together a 78-run opening stand off just 28 deliveries as the Lankans accumulated 83 for one in the Powerplay -- their highest score in the first six overs in the format. Sri Lanka's scoring rate dropped in the middle overs, but it seemed as if it was their choice rather than a turnaround by Bangladesh bowlers. With five boundaries and three maximums, Nissanka scored a brisk 16-ball 42. Mendis top-scored with a 51-ball 73-run knock, guiding the hosts to the brink of victory before falling to Mohammad Saifuddin, back in the squad after more than a year, in the 18th over. The victory helped Sri Lanka go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

PHOTO: AFP



Phenomenal PSG, dazzling Dembele

Real humbled in CWC semifinal

AGENCIES

It never seemed like Ousmane Dembele was making his first start at the Club World Cup during PSG's 4-0 thrashing of Real Madrid in the semifinal on Wednesday.

Rested throughout the group stage due to a thigh injury and having only made substitute appearances in earlier knockout rounds, Dembele started against European giants Real Madrid and made an immediate impact. He assisted Fabian Ruiz for the opening goal in the sixth minute before finding the net himself three minutes later at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Dembele, a player who struggled to fulfill his potential at Barcelona and was often sidelined



PHOTO: REUTERS

due to injuries, has become a lethal weapon in Luis Enrique's PSG side.

His goal to make it 2-0 was his 35th for PSG in 52 games across all competitions since last August -- making him the frontrunner for the Ballon d'Or, especially after helping PSG move to the brink of their fifth title this season.

Winners of Ligue 1, the French Cup, the Trophée des Champions, and the Champions League, PSG could complete a clean sweep this season by beating Chelsea in Sunday's final at the same venue.

Enrique's comments after the game perfectly summed up Dembele's impact, which goes beyond just the goals he scored.

"For me, when it comes to the Ballon d'Or, I must say that the players who can win it have to not just score goals and set up goals, but help their team to win trophies. Ousmane Dembele does those things more than any other player," Enrique said.

Consider the way PSG got their first two goals against Real Madrid. It was Dembele who capitalised on defensive errors from Los Blancos, pressing higher than anyone else -- something he had been doing all season.

Under Enrique, PSG have become a well-oiled machine, with collective brilliance now shining through after the departure of star names like Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, and Lionel Messi. But if one player could still be picked as the standout, it would most certainly be Dembele -- the one who helped uplift the French side while pushing for the biggest individual prize in football.

'Culture never formed where selectors explain to players'

"As long as [Mehidy Hasan] Miraz is playing, Mosaddek [Hossain] doesn't stand a chance." That explosive remark by chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu sparked a firestorm, casting fresh scrutiny on the national team's selection process. But how did **Mosaddek Hossain** himself process the comment? In an exclusive interview with **The Daily Star's Abdullah Al Mehdi**, the 29-year-old allrounder -- with 80 international matches under his belt -- opened up about the issue and more.

DS: How did the chief selector explain his remarks to you?

Mosaddek Hossain (MH): Yes, I saw him speaking about it in the media yesterday [July 9]. In Chattogram, though, he apologised to me in person and explained that his comment was mainly about the Test team. He told me not to take it to heart and that I was on their radar.

As you can understand, I was feeling very low at that time, so when someone like him, very senior to me, comes and says that, there is not much to say from my end.

DS: You came to know about his comments from the media? How did that feel?

MH: I actually came to know from social media. There was a practice match that very day, with Nathan Kelly overseeing things [for the camp ahead of the Sri Lanka series], and I bowled okay. In the next match though, my body played, but my mind wasn't there after seeing that news... I would have felt frustrated if some other player was talked about in that way.

DS: After excelling with both bat and ball (highest wicket-taker) in the Premier League, did you expect a national team recall? Your knock in the final was special.

MH: You see, Abahani or

Mohammedan always try to build strong squads, and they demand performance and consistency. It's not like I have been playing in Abahani for 13 years without a reason.

This year, it was a tough time and players had to take a 40-60 percent payout... and there was less security. Amid these issues, obviously I saw hope that maybe a chance could arrive since I performed. But after hearing those comments [from the chief selector], not only my faith but my motivation took a hit.

DS: You felt you won't make the national team ever again?

MH: Yes, the comments were like that. Would I ever want Miraz to play badly? He is Bangladesh captain and... our roles are different. I wouldn't want anything bad for my enemy, whereas Miraz is my closest brother.

DS: You were in contention during the West Indies tour when the 2023 World Cup squad was taking shape, but why weren't you picked?

MH: The thing is, it was about my role. I used to bat at 6-7, but at that time I was batting at 7-8... In that

series, I feel that from the bowling side, I performed as per team requirement.

DS: Did you reach out to the selectors or hear anything from them personally?

MH: In Bangladesh cricket, this culture never formed where a player asks a selector directly or they provide an explanation.

You might get a few examples, but I haven't. There are many instances where an input from a player could be of value. We always find things from social media.

DS: Do you feel you are on the radar now?

MH: I am quite confused. This year, the India series in August was cancelled. There are a few series later this year, but no ODIs. So, what will my task be like in these six months?

DS: How do you see the team's middle order and your chances?

MH: You see, [Mahmudullah] Riyad bhai and Mushfiqur [Rahim] bhai had left, and even Sri Lanka faced such a time when some players retired... But I don't think it would take much time to get over the tough period since in ODIs we were the most confident.



Sinner stands in Djokovic's road to 25

STAR SPORTS DESK

Wimbledon's men's singles semifinals promise high drama on Friday, with the headline act featuring a blockbuster showdown between seven-time champion Novak Djokovic and world number one Jannik Sinner.

But before that, two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz will face American Taylor Fritz in the first semifinal.

Alcaraz, riding a 23-match winning streak and unbeaten at Wimbledon since 2022, is chasing a third consecutive final at the All England Club.

Jannik Sinner will face Novak Djokovic for the ninth time, holding a narrow 5-4 edge in their head-to-head record.

Carlos Alcaraz and Taylor Fritz have met twice before, with the Spaniard winning both matches comfortably.



While he's dropped four sets this tournament, the Spaniard looked dominant in a straight-sets quarterfinal win over Cameron Norrie.

Opponent Fritz, in his first Wimbledon semi-final, will hope to ride the momentum of his hard-fought five-set wins earlier in the tournament.

"We know each other well," Sinner said. "But I've never beaten him here. It will be a very tough challenge."

Serb is bidding for a record 25th Grand Slam title and an eighth Wimbledon crown to equal Roger Federer's mark. Despite a minor injury scare after a fall in his quarterfinal win over Flavio Cipolla, Djokovic is determined to go the distance.

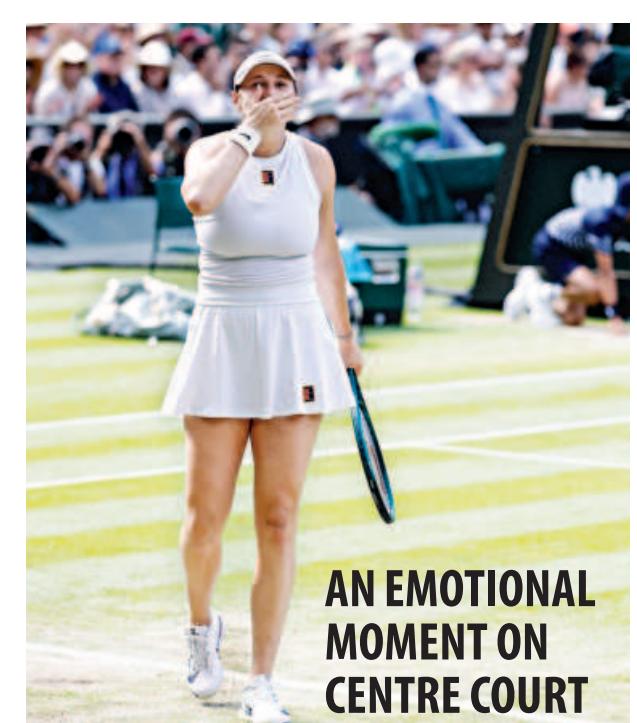
"I just try to focus on recovery now," Djokovic said. "It's going to take the best of me to beat Jannik."

Sinner, meanwhile, has enjoyed a strong run despite elbow concerns, which surfaced during his fourth-round match against Grigor Dimitrov.

The Italian, now into his second Wimbledon semifinal, dismissed Ben Shelton in straight sets and seems ready for the physical and mental test ahead.

The 23-year-old leads Djokovic 5-4 in their head-to-head and won their most recent meeting at Roland Garros. However, Djokovic has defeated Sinner both times they've met at Wimbledon, including a four-set victory in last year's semi-final.

"We know each other well," Sinner said. "But I've never beaten him here. It will be a very tough challenge."



AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT ON CENTRE COURT

Amanda Anisimova blows a kiss to the crowd, overwhelmed with joy and disbelief after reaching her maiden Wimbledon final by outclassing world number one Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 yesterday. Anisimova will face Iga Swiatek, who will also be making her first appearance in a Wimbledon final after blasting past Belinda Bencic 6-2, 6-0 in the other semifinal.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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Swelling Teesta threatens the northern dists

Over 100 villages still inundated in Feni

STAR REPORT

More than 100 villages remain inundated following embankment breaches at 20 points in Feni, while a fresh threat looms in the north as the rising Teesta river may trigger temporary flooding in low-lying areas of Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

In the last 24 hours, moderate to heavy rainfall was observed in the coastal and northeastern regions of the country, specifically in Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal divisions.

If this continues over the next three days, the flood situation in the divisions may worsen, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC)'s bulletin yesterday.

The FFWC also warned of temporary flooding in the northern districts – including Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat – in the next 24 hours.

The water level of the Kushiya River may rise to the warning level and temporarily inundate low-lying areas adjacent to it in the Sylhet district.

A total of 106 villages in Fulgazi, Parshuram, Feni Sadar and Chhagalnaiya upazilas are flooded, with more villages coming under water as embankments along the Muhuri, Kahua and Selonia rivers in Fulgazi and Parshuram upazilas were breached in 20 places.

In the 24 hours to 3:00pm Thursday, the regional

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Heavy rains have submerged large areas of Feni, where over 100 villages were flooded following breaches in the embankments of the Muhuri, Kahua, and Selonia rivers. The photo was taken in the Munshirhat area of Fulgazi upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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Publish July Charter by August 3 or face protests

Nahid tells govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party (NCP) will take to the streets again if the government fails to publish the "July Proclamation" and "July Charter" by August 3, said the party's Convenor Nahid Islam yesterday.

"On that day [August 3], we will be at the Shaheed Minar. If the government fails to publish the July Proclamation and Charter by then, we will launch another movement across the country, taking students and the people with us," he said at a rally in Magura as part of the party's country-wide 36-day July Padajatra.

Yesterday was the tenth day of the programme.

The NCP procession began from Magura Sadar Upazila Parishad around 1:20pm and concluded at Vaina intersection with a brief rally.

Addressing the gathering, Nahid



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ATTACKS ON MINORITIES

258 incidents in first half of 2025

Says Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 258 incidents of attacks on minorities, including 27 murders, took place across the country in the first six months of 2025, according to the Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad (Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council).

Presenting the data at a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the council said that from January to June, there were 27 murders; 20 incidents of violence against women, including rape; and 59 attacks on places of worship involving vandalism, looting, and arson.

It also reported 21 arrests or incidents of torture following blasphemy allegations; 87 attacks on homes and businesses; and 12 cases of forceful occupation of property, including houses, land, and commercial spaces.

Additionally, the council recorded four incidents of physical assault or forced resignation; 12 attacks on indigenous communities; and 16 other incidents such as abduction, disruption of religious ceremonies, and various forms of intimidation.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the figures or claims presented.

Manindra Kumar Nath, acting general secretary of the parishad, said the data reflects a continuation of violence against minorities, which intensified after the 2024

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CONSENSUS TALKS Parties agree to end arbitrary CJ pick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties reached consensus on two key issues, including the appointment of the chief justice, on the 11th day of the second phase of talks with the National Consensus Commission yesterday.

All 30 parties present agreed that article 95 of the constitution, which governs Supreme Court judge appointments, must be amended. They proposed that the president appoint the chief justice from the two senior-most judges of the Appellate Division, unless either is under investigation under article 96.

Article 96 outlines procedures for the removal of SC judges on grounds of misconduct or incapacity.

The parties also agreed to reinstate a caretaker government system, calling for a flawless mechanism that reflects the country's democratic legacy and avoids future disputes.

However, discussions on emergency declarations remained inconclusive, with several proposals on the table.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting at the Foreign Service Academy, BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed said, "We've agreed the caretaker system must return ... but its structure and mechanism is still being worked out. More proposals will be placed in the next meeting."

On judicial appointments, he added,

OTHER ISSUES AGREED ON

- Restoring a caretaker system; structure and mechanism yet to be discussed
- Reforming articles 141B and 141C to prevent political misuse of emergency powers
- Removing "internal disturbance" as a ground for declaring emergency in article 141A

The proposal, if applied, will limit arbitrary choices."

National Citizen Party Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain, however, raised concerns over the discretion involved in choosing between two senior judges. "We recommend appointing the senior most judge to prevent partisan bias. In the past, highly influenced appointments. We want a specific law to ensure transparency and consistency."

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad also said, "We propose amending article 95 to mandate appointments strictly by seniority."

Another major point of debate was the

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BNP urges EC to ensure polls atmosphere

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday urged the Election Commission to swiftly complete election preparations and ensure an environment conducive to polls.

"We hope the Election Commission will act accordingly – we demand that the polls be free, fair, and acceptable to all," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir while addressing a discussion titled "Journalists' Role in the July Uprising".



The event was organised by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the Jatiya Press Club.

He also thanked Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus for instructing the EC to finish poll preparations by December.

Expressing hope, the BNP leader rejected concerns from some quarters about the election being held on time.

"Why wouldn't the election be held? The people of this country want the polls. They have sacrificed their lives for the election. They want a parliament with elected representatives."

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EC wants power to void result of constituency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With preparations underway for the upcoming national polls, the Election Commission (EC) is set to propose legal amendments to restore its power to cancel the election results of an entire constituency if irregularities are found.

"We had the authority to cancel [results of] individual polling centres. What we didn't have was the power to suspend the entire constituency's result, which was once removed. We have proposed to get that authority back and hope it will be restored."

Election Commissioner Abul Fazle Md Sanaullah disclosed the matter during a press briefing yesterday following the EC's 8th commission meeting.

The meeting, held at the EC headquarters and chaired by Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, also decided that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will not be used in any future elections – national or local.

Additionally, the EC finalised its decision to allow expatriate Bangladeshis to vote using IT-supported postal ballots.

The initial cost of this process is estimated at Tk 48 crore. A new project will be launched for online registration, through which registered expatriates will receive postal ballots and return them to the designated returning officer.

Explaining the process, Sanaullah said, "There are two types of registration. First is voter registration, required by law. The second is OCV (Overseas Citizens Voting) registration, which will now be done entirely online."

He added that although online voting is being explored, it will not be implemented in this election cycle.

"We might reach the trial stage, but not the actual voting stage yet."

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THE OCEAN LOUNGER

A coral hawkfish rests on a coral, thus the name, in the Bay of Bengal off Saint Martin's Island. These small, solitary predators feed on crustaceans and fish, preferring to perch on coral or rubble rather than swim. Found across the Indo-Pacific, the males are larger and more colourful, often guarding territory during breeding. Females can transition to males -- a trait known as protogynous hermaphroditism. Lacking swim bladders, they use thick pectoral fins to prop themselves up on corals. Though listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN, coral reef degradation poses a growing threat to their habitat and long-term survival.

PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR



**PUSH-INS BY BSF
'Help find my missing mother'**

Indian man urges authorities

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

An Indian man earlier this month appealed to authorities in Assam to help find his elderly mother, who has remained missing since she was allegedly pushed into Bangladesh by the Border Security Force (BSF).

Abdul Subhan, 33, a mason by profession, sent a letter on July 1 to the superintendent of police in Hojai district, Assam, seeking urgent steps to locate his ailing mother, Musti Misma Khatun, 72.

In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star, Subhan wrote, "On May 24, 2025, around 5:00pm, Hojai police officials took my mother from our native house for interrogation in connection with

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